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ISSUE 50 Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

Issue 50 - June 2010
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**OVER SAND
AND SEA**

Hobby Boss'
1:35 AAVR-7A1

**ACHTUNG
SCHNELLBOOT!**

Italeri's big 1:35 scale S-100 superdetailed.

**A GUN
IN A BOX**

Dragon's 1:35
sIG 33 auf Fgst.
Pz.Kpfw. III



Standard Camouflage
Colours for the Middle East
Part 2

INSIDE: SHERMAN III MID PRODUCTION ■ PANZERJAGER
TREIBWAGEN ■ MERCEDES L4500R ■ AND MORE...

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WHAT'S ON AT THE TANK MUSEUM

The Tank Museum has a busy schedule over the coming months with a number of events that will be of interest to modellers, armour enthusiasts and armchair historians. To mark the 70th anniversary of the Dunkirk evacuation Sean Longden, Military Historian and author of the highly acclaimed *Dunkirk: The Men They Left Behind*, remembers the experiences of the unsung heroes of the British Expeditionary Force.

The lecture commences at 19.30pm on 27 May 2010.

Museum doors will open at 18:00, giving you an hour to browse through the Museum. Please note that seats are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

For tickets and more information, please call 01929 462359.

The Western Front Association (Dorset & South Wiltshire Branch) Regional Seminar will be held on 12 June 2010.

Guest speakers include Martin Middlebrook, Prof. Peter Simkins MBE FRHist, David Fletcher and Taff Gillingham.

For tickets and more information, please contact Dorset W.F.A, 3 Bestwall Road, Wareham, Dorset, BH20 4HY. T: 01929 553060, or email cambrat@eastcote.go-plus.net.

The Tank Museum also confirms that TANKFEST will again take place on the last weekend in June; the 26th and the 27th June 2010. We will have more information about TANKFEST 2010 in the next issue of MMI.

Climb into the Commanders seat of a main battle tank and see how it feels to take charge of a 50 tonne war machine at the Tank Museum's Tank Ride Day on 16 September 2010. Book early, as this is a very popular event. To book your tickets you can either call into The Tank Museum or call 01929 405096



MAFVA 2010

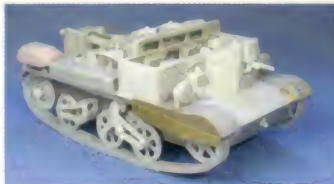
The Annual MAFVA UK National Competitions for 2010 will be held at the Imperial War Museum Duxford, on June 6th. Imperial War Museum Duxford is located outside Cambridge on an ex-WWII airfield and houses a large number of artefacts from that conflict including tanks and other vehicles, uniforms, firearms and aircraft. The MAFVA marquee will also host a large number of model displays from regional MAFVA clubs, a bring and buy stall, and one of the best gathering of traders in the country specializing in military vehicle modelling. In conjunction with the MAFVA Competition there will be a military vehicle rally and a military book fair on the same day. The Duxford Museum will run some of their tanks on their display course, and there will be number of vintage aircraft flying from the airfield. If you have never visited Duxford, you couldn't pick a better day.

This years MAFVA National Competition will also see an

experimental change to an open style of competition with gold, silver and bronze awards. This means there can be any number (or none) of these in any competition class at the judges' discretion. There will be categories for MAFVA members only, and for modellers who are non-members. For the entry rules and competition classes please visit the MAFVA website at www.mafva.net. A list of model definitions is also available to ensure that entrants place their models in the correct class. This will enable competition entrants to check eligibility and avoid disqualification for incorrect entry. Entry slips can be downloaded from the website and be completed in advance to be brought in with the models on the day of the competition.

This should prove to be an excellent day out for modellers and military enthusiasts alike.

For further details e-mail paul.middleton600@ntlworld.com or visit www.mafva.net.uk/nationals and <http://duxford.iwm.org.uk>



BREN CARRIER MK.I FROM RESICAST

Resicast has just released a new kit of a Bren Carrier Mk.I., item number 35.1203 Bren Carrier Mk I. This is a full resin kit with photo-etched parts, and the retail price is 69.50 Euros.

U.S. TANK CREW. NW EUROPE



MINIART US TANK CREW NW EUROPE

MiniArt's latest addition to its growing range of figures is a US Tank Crew, North Western Europe set. Five full figures are included, made up from 47 plastic parts.

THE WAR & PEACE SHOW 21 - 25 JULY 2010

THE LARGEST MILITARY VEHICLE SPECTACULAR IN THE WORLD
IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
CELEBRATING THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II
COMMEMORATING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
EVACUATION OF DUNKIRK AND THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN



EDON TO PUBLISH WAR AND PEACE MAGAZINE

Organisers of the world's biggest military history event, the War and Peace Show, have appointed a company that specialises in Second World War re-enactments, to publish its glossy magazine show guide for 2010. Tonbridge based Edon Publishing Ltd already produces the World War II Re-enactors Magazine as well as the website www.reenactingww2.co.uk. It was an ideal choice for the War and Peace Show, which takes place at The Hop Farm, Paddock Wood, just a few miles from Tonbridge. The War and Peace Show takes place from July 21 - 25, and this year celebrates the end of the Second World War, and the 70th anniversaries of the Dunkirk evacuation and the Battle of Britain.

PLUS MODELS - HANG YOUR KNICKERS ON THE LINE

Plus Models can usually be relied on for the occasional quirky accessories, and they have not disappointed us with their latest batch. Plus Models has just released five new sets in 1:35 scale:

- ELO18 Clothing on a Line (including bra and knickers)
- ELO20 German Wireless Station WWII with Accumulator
- ELO24 Italian Jerry Can
- ELO28 An American Vietnam-era Thermos
- ELO30 Small Stove

Plus Models is distributed in the UK by Creative Models www.creativemodels.co.uk





A column of LVTP7s from the 2nd Amphibious Assault Vehicle Battalion during Exercise Cold Winter '83. The LVTP7 can be distinguished from the later LVTP7A1 by the round headlight mountings and the single 12.7mm HMG. Photo by CPL M.H. COFFEY, Dept of Defense.

AAV7A1 AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT VEHICLE

Stuart Ransley describes the latest in the line of US Amphibious Assault Vehicles, the AAV7A1 family.

The AAV7A1 is the current amphibious assault vehicle used by the US Marine Corps.

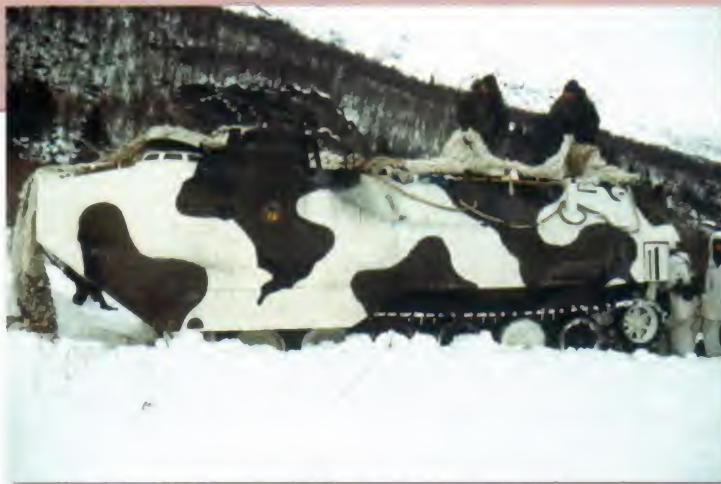
John and Donald Roebling designed and built an amphibious vehicle intended for use as a rescue vehicle in the Okeechobee region of Florida. The first vehicle, known as the Alligator, was built in 1935. In 1937, a refined version of the Alligator gained the interest of the US Navy and Marines.

The first Landing Vehicle Tracked or LVT entered service with the US Marine Corps in 1941 under the designation LVT1. Combat experience resulted in further versions from the LVT1 to the LVT 4. Development work went on after the war that resulted in the LVTP5 series. This vehicle saw extensive service during the US

involvement in the Vietnam War. In 1964 the Marine Corps issued a requirement for a new LVTP as the LVTP5 series had a short land and water range, a low water speed and was difficult to maintain. Combat experience in Vietnam showed the LVTP5 to be vulnerable to mines. The LVTP5 ran on petrol and had its fuel tanks located in the floor, if a mine blast ruptured the floor tanks the inside of the vehicle was usually incinerated along with anyone inside. In 1972 the first Marine unit was equipped with the new LVTP7. In 1977 The FMC Corporation was awarded the contract to begin upgrading the LVTP7 to the LVTP7A1, this was completed by 1986. In 1985 the Marine Corps changed the designation of the LVTP7A1 to the AAV7A1.



A close up of the turret fitted to the LVTP7. This weapon station is armed with a single 12.7mm HMG. Photo by STAFF SGT. M.D. MASTERS, Dept of Defense.



Marines cover an LVT7A1 (C23) with camouflage netting during Operation COLD WINTER '87, a NATO-sponsored military exercise. The early LVT7A1 can be identified by the square headlights. Photo by CPL J.D. GONZALES for Dept of Defense.



Another view of C23 during the exercise Operation COLD WINTER '87 note the square headlights. This vehicle is yet to be fitted with the new Up Gunned Weapon Station. The device fitted to the 12.7mm HMG is a blank firing device. Photo by CPL J.D. GONZALES for Dept of Defense.



Side view of a fully kitted out AAV7A1 with all upgraded modifications. Photo by LCPL JAMES J. VOORIS, USMC.



Marines from the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines (1/7), Charlie Company, refueling their AAV7A1 on the side of Highway 1, near Az Zubayr, Iraq. These AAV7A1 have the mounting points for the EAAK but it is not fitted. Note the unit markings on the rear and side of the vehicle. Photo by LCPL KEVIN C. QUIHUIS JR, USMC.



Right hand side view of the turret for the Upgunned Weapons Station. Photo by LCPL E. J. YOUNG, USMC.



Left hand side of the turret for the Upgunned Weapons Station showing the ammunition feed for the Mk19 40mm grenade launcher. Photo Dept of Defense.

DESCRIPTION

As first built, the LVT7 was constructed of all-welded aluminum that gave protection against small arms fire and shell splinters. The vehicle has a crew of 3 and can carry up to 25 Marines. The driver sits at the front on the left hand side and has a single piece hatch. Seven vision blocks are provided for the driver for all round observation.

Behind the driver sits the vehicle commander who also has a single piece hatch plus seven vision blocks for all round observation. He also has a use of a periscope which can be extended so as to see over the drivers hatch.

The armament station is on the right hand side of the hull next to the engine compartment and is equipped with a single turret mounted 12.7mm M85 Machine Gun.

The troop/cargo compartment is situated in the rear of the vehicle and can accommodate 25 fully equipped Marines or 4536kgs of cargo. The troops enter and leave the vehicle through a power-operated ramp at the rear of the troop compartment. This ramp also has a door on the left hand side in case of ramp failure. In the roof of the troop compartment are three torsion-spring-balanced roof

hatches for cargo loading.

The tube over bar suspension has 6 dual rubber tyred road wheels with the drive sprocket at the front and an idler at the rear.

The LVT7 is fully amphibious with no preparation. The vehicle is propelled in the water by 2 water jets, which are mounted either side of the troop compartment. These jets give the vehicle a maximum water speed of 13.5 kmph. ►



Think Tank - AAV7A1 AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT VEHICLE



MK154 Launcher Mine Clearance (LMC) which is made up of 2 components:- three M59 Linear Demolition Charges (LDC) and three MK22 Mod 3/4 Rockets. The MK154 LMC can be attached to any AAVP7A1 to clear a path through a minefield 16 meters wide by 100 meters long. Photo by SGT PAUL L. ANSTINE II, USMC



Right hand side view of an AAV7A1 recovery vehicle. The large pulley at the front of the vehicle is part of the recovery winch. Photo by SGT KEVIN R. REED, USMC.

Top view of an AAV7A1 whilst afloat. Note the roof-mounted crane and winch. The winch is mounted at the back of the vehicle and runs through the pulley at the front. Photo by LCPL ANTONIO J. VEGA, USMC



MODERNISATION

Between 1982 and 1986 the FMC Corporation upgraded the entire fleet of LVTP7 to LVTP7A1 standard. This modernisation program increased the vehicle's reliability, availability and maintainability. The upgrade consisted of the following:-

- A new Cummins VT400 diesel engine,
- Smoke generating Capability,
- Passive night observation devices,
- Improved fire suppression systems,
- Secure voice radio installation,
- Improved hydraulic and electrical systems.

In 1986, the first LVTP7A1 were upgraded with a new up-gunned weapon station. This consisted of a new turret armed with a 12.7mm HMG and a Mk.19 40mm grenade launcher. The new turret was produced by Cadillac Gage and greatly improved both the offensive and defensive firepower of the vehicle.

After modernisation of the existing vehicle fleet had been completed, production of new vehicles was commenced to the LVTP7A1 standard. Around 1985 the Marine Corps changed the designation of the LVTP7A1 to AAV7A1.

ENHANCED APPLIQUÉ ARMOR KIT.

In the early 1980s, an appliqué armor kit was developed to improve the armor protection of the AAV7A1. This comprises a series of bolt-on armor panels that provide additional protection to the vehicle. The EAAK adds 4,400 pounds to the vehicle and can also be mounted to the AAVC7A1 but not the AAVR7A1. Due to the added weight of the armor kit a bow plane was added to the front of the vehicle to improve stability whilst afloat.



An AAV7A1 from the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Delta Company has its UWS (Upgunned Weapons Station) temporarily removed by an AAVR7A1. Photo by LCPL KEVIN C. QUIHUIS JR, USMC.



An AAV7A1 from the 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Delta Company has its UWS (Upgunned Weapons Station) temporarily removed by an AAVR7A1. The photo shows a good view of the rear of the recovery vehicle. To the left and right of the rear door is mounted the two water jets that propel the vehicle whilst afloat. Photo by LCPL KEVIN C. QUIHUIS JR, USMC.

RAM/RS PROGRAMME

With the addition of a heavier weapons turret, additional armour protection, bow plane and other improvements, the overall weight of the vehicle increased to the point of reducing some operational capabilities.

The key parts of the RAM/RS programme include:-

- Installation of a Cummins diesel developing 525,
- Installation of the suspension system from the Bradley infantry fighting vehicle.

These changes restored the performance capabilities of the AAV7 series.

VARIANTS

Apart from the standard troop carrying AAV7A1 there are 2 other variants currently in service:

AAVC7A1

This vehicle is a mobile communication center for water operations from ship to shore and to inland objectives after landing. The vehicle is fitted with five radio operator stations, three staff stations, and two master stations and carries equipment to provide external secure radio transmission between the AAVC7A1 vehicle and other vehicles and radios within and external to the task force. Internal communication between

each crew station is also provided. The Vehicle is not equipped with a turret but is armed with a single 7.62mm MG.

AAVR7A1

A need for a recovery vehicle that could reach a beachhead under its own power without use of a landing craft resulted in the development of the AAVR7A1. It uses the standard AAV7A1 hull but has a number of modifications which include:

The machine gun turret replaced by a 7.62 mm M240G machine gun.

A hydraulic crane with an extending boom mounted on the roof of the vehicle, which can

lift 2,722 kg. The boom can be elevated from 0 to +65°

The troop compartment was modified to carry includes benches, tools, an air compressor, a battery charger, a generator, a 14 to 35 V DC MIG welder, and a portable welding kit.

A roof mounted recovery winch with 84.73 m of 19 mm diameter cable with a breaking strength of 22,044 kg. The two-speed (high and low) winch has a maximum capacity of 13,605 kg on a bare drum at a low speed and 1,878 kg on a full drum at high speed.

The AAVR7A1 has a crew of five, a loaded weight of 23,601 kg and an unloaded weight of 22,563 kg. ■



Think Tank



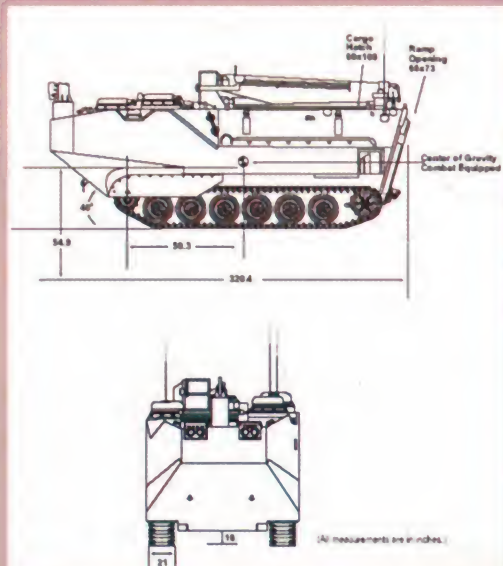
An AAVR7A1 with a AAV7A1 behind come ashore at Freshwater Beach during amphibious assault landing operations during exercise Crocodile '99 in the Shoalwater Bay Training Area, Queensland, Australia. Note the AAV7A1 is fitted with EAAK where the AAV7RA1 has not. Photo by PHI DANIEL E. SMITH, Dept of Defense.



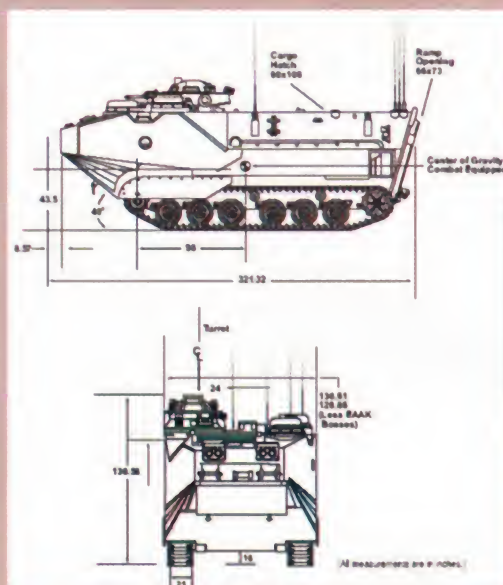
A mud spattered AAV7A1 with all the current modifications.

References

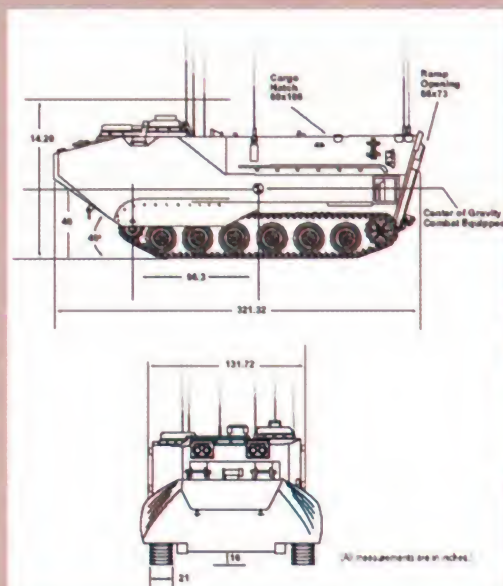
Jane's Armour and Artillery 1986-87
 Amtracs: US Amphibious Assault Vehicles by Steve Zaloga Osprey Vanguard 45
 MCWP 3-13 w_Chg 1 Employment of Amphibious Assault Vehicles (AAVs)
 Defense Visual Information Center www.dodmedia.osd.mil
 An excellent series of photos of an AAVR7A1 may be found at www.ferreamole.it/images/aavr7/aavr.htm



AAVR7A1



AAVP7A1 RAMRS



AAVC7A1

OVER SEA AND SAND

Andrew Judson builds the repair and recovery version of the Hobby Boss 1:35 scale AA7 family, the AAVR-7A1 Assault Amphibian Vehicle Recovery



Hobby Boss has produced some lovely kits of great quality over the short period of their existence and this one is no exception. Continuing their excellent line of LVTP7 / AA7 variants is this kit, the 1:35 scale AAVR-7A1 Assault Amphibian Vehicle Recovery. The AAVR-7A1 is the repair and recovery variant of the AA7 family that serves to support AA7 operations by keeping these online through first line repair by specialist personnel. These specialist and often-unsung maintainers are an essential part of any armoured formation.

The kit is very substantial and packed with detail from a full interior and poseable crane to individual track links.

This version shares many components with Hobby Boss's earlier releases but includes additional parts for the winching and lifting gear. Additionally, it depicts the unique interior of these monsters. Well over 800 parts make up this kit, spread over 21 sprues. In addition, two large photo-etched frets and large upper and lower hulls plus 180 individual track

links fill the large box. The kit follows the same construction sequence as the earlier variants until you get to Step 6 of 18 where you start to see the real differences in the form of the large storage and parts bins contained within. These are well detailed have large photo-etched mesh screens for the lower storage areas below these. Three large and one smaller assembly fill the cavernous hull but these are surrounded by a myriad of smaller details that demonstrate the thoroughness of this kit. Very little will need to be added to the interior other than radios and night vision periscope stowage.

The vehicle's distinctive crane and fore-aft winch are extremely detailed and great little kits in their own rights. Braided nylon thread is supplied as the winch cable for the lifting jib and the fore aft winching gear. The crane can rotate and raise and lower if assembled carefully. This kit will not be a quick build and again I stress following the instructions and building in sub assemblies. It is strongly advisable to detail paint and decal the sub sections (the interior ones) as you go, as once the hull is sealed it will be extremely difficult to access all the nooks and crannies.

Decals are well printed but some of the smaller text is amusing to say the least. One example is "Maching Inch May is Moying". Yes, you'll have to be careful of that. In general, though, the decals are excellent. A myriad of small decals (stencilling and warning labels) are applied within the hull. External markings are two small text stencils for the rear ramp and no unit insignia is depicted in the colour guide for a NATO 3 colour scheme. ▶

The tracks were removed after assembly and kept separate from the running gear to make painting easier.

The interior of the vehicle is quite cavernous before the detail is added.

The driver's compartment at the front starts to take shape.

Detail is added to separate panels, which are glued to the interior of the hull.

The tracks were assembled on the running gear, taking care not to glue them to the wheels.



Boxes and bulkheads are starting to fill out the hull interior now.



The modular interior may be built in sub-assemblies, making it easier to reach all the detail for painting.



The rear of the interior is packed with toolboxes and other stowage.



The driver's compartment is surprisingly squeeze, and busily fitted out.

GETTING STARTED

After thoroughly studying the instructions, it was build time starting with the main hull and the driveline. There were four stages to this from installing the water propulsion units, through to the suspension and wheels and tracks. When I assembled the wheels and tracks, I put it all together as one unit, gluing the wheels onto the tracks and. Once dry, I was able to remove it from the kit for ease of painting and weathering. At this stage, I had no problems with putting it together, but the next stage, the interior was to test me a little.

The kit comes with quite a detailed interior covered over ten stages in the instructions, from the rear fuel cells, toolboxes and stowage compartments to nicely detailed driver's and commander's compartment and a crew compartment. There is also a lot of detail on the inside ceiling, though a lot of this won't be seen when the

two main halves are together but, hey, at least you know it is there.

All the interior detail is on panels that act as a base on which to glue all of the instrumentation, and then put in place inside the hull. This is where I got into trouble because, if it is not in the right spot, you will have a challenge getting the upper and lower halves together as I did, so double check everything as you go.

INTERIOR COLOURS

It is now necessary to paint all of that interior before you can go any further. For this, I used a base coat of Tamiya Acrylic XF-71 Cockpit Green followed by an application of Mig Productions Dark Brown wash. Once dry, some white was mixed into the base coat to lighten it up and the paler shade was sprayed from the centre out of each panel to suggest a more three dimensional look. Decals were then carefully put into place using Gunze Mr Mark Softer. I sprayed



Hobby Boss supplies decals for interior stencils, fire extinguishers and more.



The stowage lockers and toolboxes benefit from judicious weathering.



The fire extinguishers and gas bottles add a splash of colour to the otherwise monotone interior.



Photo-etched parts are supplied for the mesh covers of the bottom port side lockers.



The interior of the upper hull is well fitted out too.



The base colour for the entire interior is Tamiya XF-71 Cockpit Green.

the floor with Tamiya acrylic XF-24 Dark Grey and a wash of black to dirty things up. Lastly for the interior, I applied Mig Pigments Iraq Sand mixed into a paste with water in small blobs randomly over the floor, left to fully dry and then with a large flat brush flicked this off in different directions to simulate boot and scuff marks. Things are really starting to look pretty good at this stage.

At this point I decided to paint the driveline and tracks using Tamiya acrylic XF-67 NATO Green for the wheels and a 50/50 mix of Flat Black and Red Brown for the tracks. I then painted each individual track pad in flat black. When this was all dry I applied my wet mix of Mig Iraq Sand watered

down further so it would flow into all the small recesses and left this to dry out before removing the excess with a broad flat brush. Next was a dry brush of flat black again very lightly over the track pads to bring them out a little. Now that the tracks were done, the wheels received a wash of Mig Filter Grey for Dark Yellow. This delivers a nice appearance of dust gathered around the bolts and rubber rim. A light treatment of the pigments followed to give a dusty look as shown on most pictures of these vehicles serving in Iraq. Lastly, I sprayed and weathered the area where the tracks would be glued using the same techniques as previous and then glued all into place. ►

“Very little will need to be added to the interior other than radios and night vision periscope stowage.”

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The tracks are restored to the running gear after painting and weathering.

Squadron Green Putty was used in a few areas, including the join seam on the top of the jib.



The lower and upper hulls were joined after trimming some of the interior parts. More attention a little earlier would have made this extra work unnecessary.

“The vehicle’s distinctive crane and fore-aft winch are extremely detailed and great little kits in their own rights.”

◀ GETTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Back to construction now. I encountered no problems with the final seven steps of the exterior of the upper half, but had to decide how I wanted the upper hatches configured. In the end I chose all but the crew hatch. The back ramp I left up but the access door I opened. I wanted to show as much of the interior as possible.

Building the crane was quite easy but it looks impressive once finished, and can be depicted as I built mine in the stowed position. When the upper deck was finished I knew that I had hit trouble when test fitting the lower and upper halves together. They wouldn’t fit. Why? Because I had not paid enough attention when putting in the interior and must have installed some parts slightly out of place. To fix this I shaved of plastic pretty much section by section until all was pretty much right, and then using clamps put the halves together and applied the glue, leaving it to dry for twenty four hours. A final application of Squadron Green Putty filled in the gaps before sanding it all down. Phew, problem fixed though it could have easily been avoided. Silly me.

So close to completion now. I masked off the driveline and sprayed everything in a base coat of Tamiya XF-67 NATO Green and then applied the camouflage

scheme using XF-68 NATO Brown and XF-69 NATO Black. I then added a wash over the entire vehicle using Mig Filter Grey for Dark Yellow for the initial dusty effect. Some of the smaller details like vehicle equipment were picked out in various shades of green, followed by my mix of Mig pigment Iraq Sand across the upper half of the vehicle. When this was dry, it brushed it downwards with a stiff paintbrush to suggest streaking of the sand down the sides. The top deck also received the same though in concentrated areas of wear and where it would gather, again taking off the excess to tone it down. Once completed, the weathering was seen to be a bit too uniform, so I went over it again to show heavier areas of wear and streaking. Much better.

FIGURES AND FINISHING TOUCHES

I decided to add a pair of Trumpeter AFV crewmen, some Legend stowage in the form of backpacks and large bags in various camouflage covers, a couple of soft drink boxes, a pair of scratch made cans and a personal weapon for one of the crewman. In my opinion, the figures give more character to the kit as a whole. For those wondering why the back access door is open, this will end up on a base and an extra figure will be added near by, maybe a kitted up Marine. ▶

The figures come from Trumpeter’s 1:35 Modern US Army Armor Crewman and Infantry set, Item No. 00424





The model first received an overall coat of Tamiya XF-67 NATO Green.

“Once completed, the weathering was seen to be a bit too uniform, so I went over it again to show heavier areas of wear and streaking.”



The first pass of Mig Pastels before further work.



The devil is in the detail. Cartons of Coca Cola litter the top of the hull.



The jib has been depicted stowed, but it can also be built deployed.



Open hatches help us appreciate all the work that has gone before inside.



The figures give the vehicle more character.

◀ "SEMPER FI"

Hobby Boss' 1:35 AAVR-7A1 Assault Amphibian Vehicle Recovery was a completely enjoyable project, and I will definitely be building a couple of other variants of this in the future. Thanks to all who made comments during the build. Your advice was greatly appreciated. ■



Acknowledgements

Thanks to Creative Models UK for the sample www.creativemodels.co.uk
Thanks to Al Bowie for the in-box summary text.

Modelspec

Hobby Boss 1:35 AAVR-7A1 Assault Amphibian Vehicle Recovery Kit No. 82411

Kits used

Trumpeter 1:35 Modern US Army Armor Crewman and Infantry. Item No. 00424
Legends Stowage.

Paints used

Tamiya acrylic XF-1 Flat Black; XF-2 Flat White; XF-24 Dark Grey; XF-64 Red Brown; XF-67 NATO Green; XF-68 NATO Brown; XF-69 NATO Black; XF-71 Cockpit Green.

Weathering materials

Mig Productions Pigments - Iraq Sand,
Mig Productions Filters - Grey for Dark Yellow.

- ✓ High level of detail including interior parts; poseable hatches and jib; interesting subject matter; good quality moulding.
- ✗ Some care needed to avoid fouling the fit of the upper and lower hull against previously installed interior parts.

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Rating ●●●●●●●●●●

STYRENE SUPERBOWL

Tony Bell reports on the biggest model show in North America - the IPMS USA - and takes a stroll around the military vehicle aisles.

The IPMS USA National Convention is basically the Superbowl of the modeling world. Except advertising is way cheaper. And participants aren't even remotely athletic. Oh, and then there is the lack of cheerleaders...

Okay, so it's not the Superbowl. But it, and its UK counterpart Scale Model World (the "World Cup" of modeling?), are the world's premiere modeling events, attracting vendors by the score and throngs of hobby enthusiasts from all over the planet with thousands of models in astounding variety.

The most recent IPMS USA National Convention was held from 19 to 23 August 2009 in Columbus, Ohio. Although not a mega-city like Los Angeles where the Nats were held in 2007, Columbus is nonetheless quite centrally located. The bulk of the participants hailed primarily from eastern and central USA, but with a sizable representation from the south and west, along with a typically boisterous Canadian contingent. Other participants

from Europe and the UK, Central and South America and even as far away as East Asia and the South Pacific added some international flavour of the event.

The convention site was well chosen, being walking distance to numerous hotels, restaurants, bars and other amenities. The hall itself was enormous, with ample space for the display tables and plenty of room to maneuver a camera and tripod. There was an upper level mezzanine overlooking the main hall with additional space for club displays. The only letdown was the quality of the lighting which varied from barely sufficient in some places to downright gloomy elsewhere. The penlights were in evidence all over the place, just so the workmanship could be appreciated.

As might be expected, the quality of the models on display was outstanding, with talent fairly dripping off the tables. Not surprisingly, military vehicles and aircraft formed the bulk of the entries, but there was plenty of variety in the other genres, too. It was also encouraging to

The Columbus Arch is a remnant of an old railway station in Columbus' Arena District, a block from the convention site.



This scratch built and beautifully finished 1:16 scale M5A1 Stuart placed first in its category. Model by Steve Stone.

Tamiya's tiny Tilley, in Desert Rats markings. Model by Steve Macey



A 1:35 Mörser Karl.

A lot of extra work went into the Emhar kit to produce this impressive Mk.IV Male, which placed first in its category. Model by Dave Douglass.



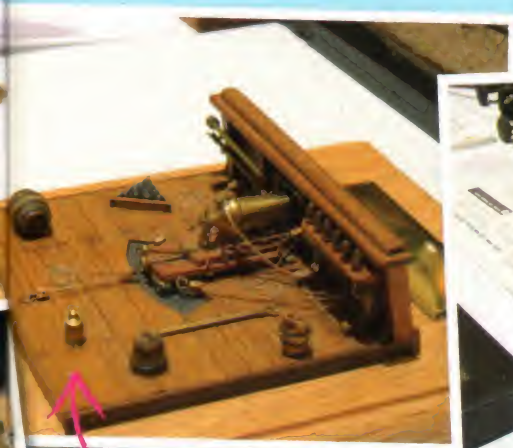
This 1:48 WWI Renault FT-17 was built from the GasoLine resin kit. Model by Garfield Ingram.

see a good number of entries in previously underrepresented categories such as 1/48 armour, 1/144 aircraft and WWI.

The vendors were spread out amongst several rooms, some large and some small. While this didn't necessarily lend itself to ease of navigation, the convention organizers thoughtfully provided helpful maps to guide the throngs

of credit card wielding modelers to their booths of choice.

The awards banquet and ceremony was accompanied by a rather slick slide presentation displayed on multiple screens and was carried off with only a few minor hiccups. All in all the show seemed to be very well run, and was thoroughly enjoyable. ■



There was not a whole lot of plastic in this wood and turned brass British Carronade. Model by Tom Burns.



Trumpeter's big 203mm Howitzer M1931 (B-4).



Big name for a little gun: Ordnance 2 Pounder Mark IX Carriage Mark II British Anti-Tank Gun, from the 1:35 Vulcan Scale Models kit.



Scratch built in 1/35, this Mammut depicted Field Marshall Erwin Rommel's personal command vehicle. Model by Monte Kelch.



This 1/35 Stryer ambulance was made from the Tamiya kit and the CMK conversion set. Model by Chris Toops.



Winner of the Best Diorama award, this atmospheric shadow box depicted the sculpting of the Lincoln Memorial. Model by Dave Browne.

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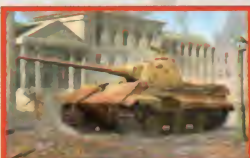
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ACHTUNG SCHNELLBO

Chris Wauchop wades in to detail and modify Italeri's big 1:35 scale Schnellboot S-100-Klasse.



OOT!



This image illustrates the challenges of trying to photograph Italeri's big 1:35 scale S-Boot. The model overhangs the Editor's photography table, and even two large sheets of white cardboard are not enough to span stem to stern.



The severe limitations imposed on Germany by the 1919 Treaty of Versailles restricted the building of large warships but omitted to cover the development of smaller attack craft. This loophole resulted in the design of the motor torpedo boat in the late 1920s. An advanced design for a pleasure boat became the basis for the hull of the first S-Boot, the S-1.

The boats became bigger and more powerful through their 15 years of development. With their armoured bridge and wheelhouse, the S-100 class boats, carrying a crew of 21 and reaching a top speed of 42 knots, first appeared in 1943.

One of the most successful actions carried out by the S-Boot occurred in the early hours of the 28 April, 1944 when, off the coast of Devon in the English Channel, several S- boats attacked eight LSTs that were preparing to take part in a D-Day landing exercise. One transport ship was sunk and several were damaged, resulting in more than 700 Allied soldiers and sailors killed. Due to the secret nature of this

Allied exercise the Kriegsmarine never received credit for this operation. To put the gravity of this attack in perspective, the total losses at Utah Beach on D-Day was around 200.

During the war the S- boats received credit for sinking or damaging some 170 allied warships and merchant craft.

ITALERI'S 1:35 SCALE S-BOOT

Let's get the obvious statement out of the way early - this model is BIG! The hull is a metre long and around 13cm wide. The kit comprises more than 600 parts. The long hull is split into left and right halves. The plastic parts are supplemented by a large photo-etched fret, screws to assemble the hull, clear acetate for the windows and several lengths of twine. The instructions are presented in a nicely presented stapled booklet that includes not only the assembly sequence, but also history and photographic reference. Markings are provided for two well-known vessels.

Although it may appear daunting when examining the contents, building this large model is relatively straightforward. A very impressive result can be achieved even if the model is built straight from the box.

However, be aware that if you want to accurately depict either of the boats whose markings are included on the kit's decal sheet you will have to make 'a few' changes and additions. ▶



The basic assemblies have been completed here - the hull, deck and armoured skullcap.



The two ventilator stacks were bent outwards about two-thirds of the way up. This was achieved by very gently bending the parts to the desired angle.



The ventilator stacks now poke out from behind the bridge at the correct angle.



Handholds were substituted with brass wire bent to shape. The kit's plastic insulators were replaced with much finer scratch-built parts using brass wire and tiny washers.



Extra armour plates were added to the rear of the open bridge using plastic card. The addition of these plates seems to be peculiar to this boat.

CHANGES AND ADDITIONS

I did choose to finish my S-Boot as one of the kit's marking options, namely 'Ha-Ju'. Each S-Boot seemed to have a different combination of fittings, so reference is very helpful.

Here are the changes and additions that I made to obtain an accurate 'Ha-Ju':

Although the photo-etched parts are nicely presented, I decided to replace all the metal non-slip wooden planking with Evergreen 40 and 60 thou plastic strips. This was an easy modification, and I thought it lent a better three-dimensional effect to the planking. It would also be easier to paint the plastic than the brass.

The field-fitted additional voice pipes (mounted on the outside of the bridge) were added to match photographic reference. They were made with thick solder, shaped plastic tube and small brackets from my photo-etched spares drawer. Flexible voice tubes were also made from solder with fine copper wire wound around to simulate the corrugations of flexible tubing. This was relatively easy but fiddly to accomplish the corrugations.

All hatch handles in the bridge were replaced with brass wire. Brass wire was also used to replace handrails—parts 44D and 45D—on outside of armoured bridge. Vertical handhold rods were made from brass wire and oval hand-hold grips were added to the Kalotte's port and starboard aft edges. Vertical handhold rods were also added to the hull sides. This is another really easy enhancement that looks better and adds strength to these otherwise delicate parts.

Lots of detail was added to the binoculars and targeting computer using plastic strip and solder wire. This was a bit more challenging but well worth the effort.

Extra armour plates were added to the rear of the open bridge using plastic card. Small pieces of plastic rod were used to replicate the boltheads that were holding these plates in position. The addition of these plates seems to be peculiar to this boat. This was relatively straightforward.

Raised detail on outside of the rear wall of the bridge was removed and the resulting holes filled with Tamiya putty.

The two ventilator stacks behind the bridge of each of the



Fuel filler caps were scratch built from plastic scrap and fine brass wire.



Lots of extra work was put into the compass and binoculars.



The depth charge rails as supplied. These were later modified.

kit's subject boats ('Ha-Ju' and 'Lang'), rather than being straight and leaning outwards (as in the kit), stood more upright and were bent outwards about two-thirds of the way up. I achieved this by very gently bending the part to the desired angle. Be very careful doing this as one of mine did snap and took time and filler to repair.

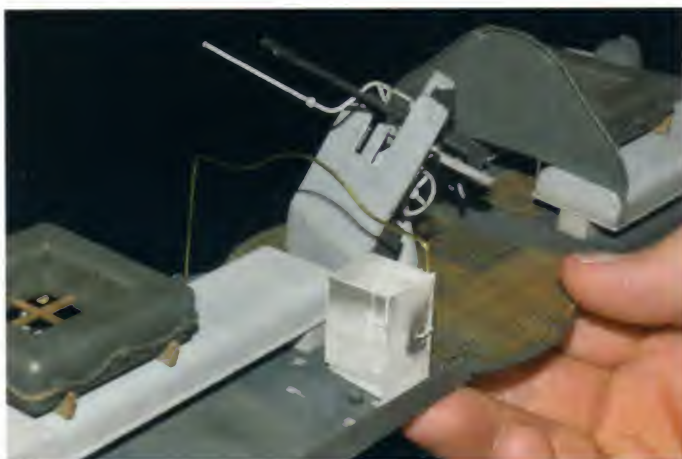
I used 'Spud' Murphy's article in Issue 35 of 'Model Military International' as my reference for the removal of rivets and the addition of weld seams to the armoured skullcap. My method for adding these seams does differ from Spud's though. I

think my method is simpler. 20 thou Evergreen rod was glued in position using plenty of extra-thin liquid cement. While the plastic rod was still soft, the weld texture was added using the point of a sewing needle.

A bell rope was added to ship's bell.

Port and starboard navigation lights were modified to match reference photos by replacing photo-etched parts 28PH and 29PH with thicker plastic card.

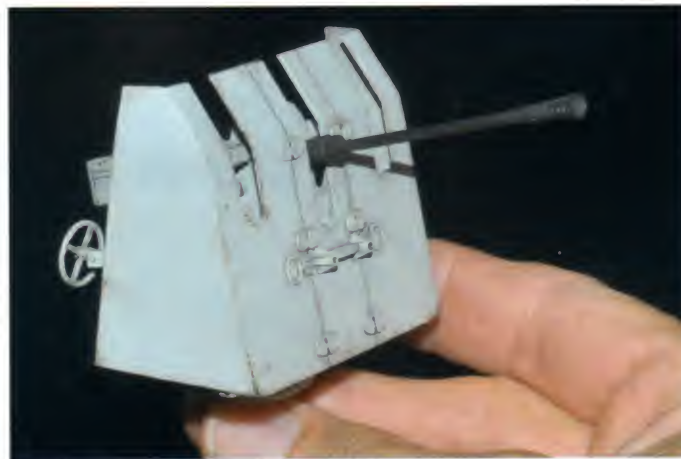
Locking tabs and a hook were added to armoured bridge window covers. These were made from plastic rod and strip. ▶



The rear deck and guns were built as separate sub-assemblies.



Cuba IA and Bali I radar detector antennae were scratch built using photo-etched mesh from the spares drawer and mounted on a mast made from brass tube and rod.



The side shields for the 37mm gun were built from scratch to match reference photos.



The 37mm gun assembly is a model in its own right.



The forward 20mm Flak 38 is recessed under the front deck, but plenty of detail is still visible.



The kit torpedos are a prominent feature.



The bodies were sprayed with Tamiya TS-42 Light Gunmetal straight out of the can.

◀ The insulators on top of part 16D (x 2) were removed because they were way out of scale. These were replaced with much finer scratch-built parts using brass wire and tiny washers from my photo-etched parts spares drawer. This was pretty fiddly.

The bow gun cover—part 23F—looks nothing like any of the reference photos I have, so it was modified by removing the moulded-on locking tabs and base plate. The locking tabs were replaced with brass wire bent to shape. This does take a bit of time and effort.

The fuel tank caps were scratch built from plastic card and fine brass wire. This was not too difficult.

The two ladders—part 49D (x 2)—were quite badly distorted so

new ones were scratch built using Evergreen 35 thou plastic rod.

Deck lockers were replaced with scratch-built ones made to match reference photos. This took a bit of guesswork as photos were not clear from all angles, but these new scratch built parts look more correct than the kit lockers.

The portholes in the ventilator trunks—parts 9F and 79D—need to be filled and sanded. The small vent stack on the rear deck was also modified to be taller using aluminium tube and repositioned to where I thought it should be according to a photo appearing on p.27 of 'Squadron/Signal' publication no. 4018 'Schnellboot in Action'. A bit more guesswork was involved here.

The kit's plastic gun striker

rails—parts 12E, 45E, 11E, 47E, 58 and 59E—were all replaced with brass wire. The 45E replacement was covered in foil to replicate a canvas cover. A fair bit of time and patience was needed here!

The flat photo-etched handles for the smoke generators were replaced with brass wire.

Thin twine supplied in the kit and intended for ship's railing was replaced with fine solder. The rope moulded around the life preservers—parts 30E and 88D—was removed and replaced with wire.

Side armour was added to the 37mm gun's front armour shield—part 5A—using plastic card. This was tricky and the result of trial and error, but it makes a big difference to the appearance of the

gun. Holes were drilled through the 37mm gun's solid plastic muzzle flash suppressor—parts 14 and 15G.

The photo-etched helmet racks that were not used on the rear wall of the bridge were added to the gun shields as per photographic reference.

The kit's antenna wire support poles—part 15D (x 2)—were replaced with scratch-built, slightly longer ones using brass tube and wire, and repositioned further towards the stern. This was pretty easy to do.

The radio antenna mast was scratch built using brass tube and wire, then attached with fine wire to a bracket made from plastic rod. Although tricky, this lends a much more appropriate scale effect.

Cuba 1A and Bali 1 radar detector ▶



The completed model is streamlined but bristles with detail.



The bow of the boat was scuffed up with painting effects.



The completed 20mm Flak 38. The rope looks quite effective.



The covers for the torpedo tubes are hinged and may be opened after the model is assembled.



Additional rope coiled on the front deck.



The skullcap was detailed with weld beads and punched rivets.



The completed bridge with all the extra detail and scratch built parts in place.



The wooden platform/pallet was built from scratch and leaned up against the rear of the bridge. A rope was added to the bell.



The stylised marking reads Ha Ju.



Life rafts and cover on forward gun strike rail were painted with a mix of XF-61 Dark Green and XF-64 Red Brown.

“The completed model is streamlined but bristles with detail.”



Detail view of the twin 20mm Flak 38.

antennae were scratch built using photo-etched mesh from the spares drawer and mounted on a mast made from brass tube and rod. Now this was quite challenging!

On 'Ha-Ju' the placement of the radar antenna post meant the signalman's platform had to be relocated and a small step added to the back of the wheelhouse. This is easy to do using the photos on pages 27 and 28 of the Squadron/Signal in Action book as reference.

Leaning against the back of the wheelhouse in the photos mentioned above, there is a slatted wooden platform - it actually looks like a pallet - which appears to be being used as a ladder. I'm not sure whether the Germans or the Brits placed it there, so this scratch built item is not permanently fixed in place.

Lastly, canvas dodgers were added. This was quite a challenge due to the length of the dodgers and the requirement to look like scale canvas. After much consideration and testing of different materials, the dodgers

were eventually made from paper-backed lead foil and hung from the railings with tiny rings made from invisible mending thread. Although time consuming, the dodgers really customise the look of the S-Boot.

PAINTING AND WEATHERING

The upper hull sides, armoured bridge, canvas dodgers, deck lockers, engine ventilator trunks and gun shields were painted with my interpretation of 'Schnellboot Weiss', which is a 50/50 mix of Gunzer Sanyo H338 Light Grey FS36495 and Tamiya XF-66 Light Grey.

The lower hull black/grey is again my interpretation of Schiffsboden Farbe III Grau No. 1, which is a mix of 75% Tamiya XF-24 Dark Grey and 25% Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black.

The upper deck is again my custom mix of Schlickgrau No. 58, consisting of 50% Gunzer H301 Grey FS36081 and 50% Tamiya XF-24 Dark Grey.

All woodwork is painted with Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow and dirtied down with a wash of



The exhaust and wooden bump rails were weathered with a combination of airbrush and paint brush. Italeri supplies the stand and the nameplate.

a heavily thinned mix of Tamiya enamel XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown. Most of the deck non-slip planking on the real boat was overpainted with deck grey; but in the photos it looks very scuffed, so it was lightly over-sprayed with the dark grey upper deck colour. Then the entire upper deck received a wash of the enamel black/brown mix.

Torpedos were sprayed with Tamiya TS-42 Light Gunmetal straight out of the can. When dry, a light coat of acrylic XF-1 and XF-

64 mix was sprayed on. When this was dry it was roughly scrubbed off with a toothbrush. This leaves a streaky, oily appearance (I hope!).

Life rafts and cover on forward gun strike rail were painted with a mix of XF-61 Dark Green and XF-64 Red Brown.

Gun barrels and breeches were sprayed flat black and polished with graphite powder.

Chipping, shading, streaking and staining was applied with paintbrush and airbrush using my mix of acrylic black and red brown. ▶

The completed kit is large and impressive. This is an imposing model from any angle.



The flag is made from thin lead foil.



The navigation lights and the surrounds were painted green on the starboard side and red to port.



Scratch built deck lockers. These were made from sheet plastic according to reference photos.



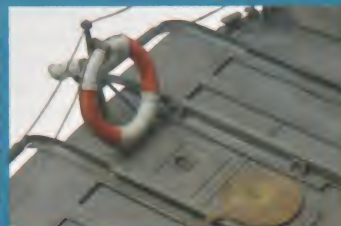
The 37mm deck gun in place. The breech and the shield have been carefully weathered.



The stovepipe from the Galley was modified and detailed.



A detail view of the rear deck.



The life preservers add a rare splash of colour to the decks.



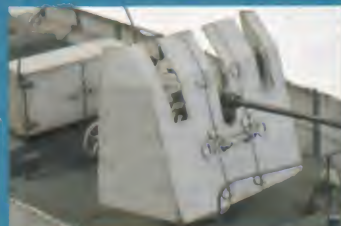
Canvas dodgers were added.



The dodgers were made from paper-backed lead foil and hung from the railings with tiny rings made from invisible mending thread.



The propellers were painted Tamiya TS-21 gold and then heavily weathered with the acrylic black/brown mix.



Subtle chipping and rust was added to the gun shields and deck lockers.



The kit's plastic gun striker rails were all replaced with brass wire.



A rear port side view of the armoured bridge. Lots of detail has been added here, and it is well worth the time and effort.



View from the top. All woodwork is painted with Tamiya XF-59 Desert Yellow and dirtied down with a wash of a heavily thinned mix of Tamiya enamel XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown.



The completed interior of the armoured bridge. The flexible voice tubes were made from solder with fine copper wire wound around to simulate the corrugations of flexible tubing.

◀ The demarcation between the upper deck grey and Schnellboot Weiss above the torpedo tubes on this boat ('Ha-Ju') seems lower than that of 'Lang'. This is evident in the only photo I can find showing its complete port side.

Propeller blades were sprayed with Tamiya TS-21 gold and then heavily weathered with the acrylic black/brown mix.

DECALS

Decals were applied using Gunzer Mr Mark Setter and Mr Mark Softer. Once the decals were dry the entire model received a good coat of Polly Scale acrylic flat finish.

CONCLUSION

Italeri's 1:35 scale Schnellboot Type S-100 is a large and impressive kit that will look great even when built straight from the box. I added a lot of detail and made modifications according to reference photos for this particular boat, but the extra work only added to the enjoyment of the project.

In fact, I like the model so much that I have bought a custom-made glass cabinet to display the S-Boot in my lounge room!

Now, Mr Italeri, how about a Vosper Patrol Boat in 1:35 scale too? ■

Modelspec

Italeri 1/35 Scale Schnellboot Type S-100.
Kit No. 5603

Materials

Evergreen rod, tube, strip and card of various sizes and thicknesses. Brass tube and rod of various sizes. Lead foil. Invisible mending thread. Fine solder.

Paints used

Tamiya acrylic XF-1 flat black, XF-24 dark grey, XF-66 light grey, XF-59 desert yellow and XF-64 red brown
Tamiya enamel XF-1 and XF-64
Tamiya spray TS-42 light gunmetal and TS-21 gold
Gunze acrylic H338 light grey and H301 grey

References

'Schnellboot in Action'
Squadron/Signal publication no. 4018
'Kriegsmarine Schnellboot'
Classic Warships Publishing's. Warship Pictorial No.15
Model Military International No. 35
Tamiya Model Magazine International No. 159
www.prinzeugen.com

- ✓ Great subject. Overall shape is basically accurate.
- ✗ Expensive. A lot of detail pertaining to the boats that are the subjects of the kit is inaccurate or missing. The decal of the 'Ha-Ju' monogram is quite a bit too small.

Available from

All good model shops Worldwide.
Distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited.
www.hobbyco.net

Rating ●●●●●●○○

The radar installation in place. This scratch built assembly is delicate but prominent on the completed model.



“Although it may appear daunting when you first examine the contents, building this large model is relatively straightforward. A very impressive result can be achieved even if it is built straight from the box.”



MEET THE AUTHOR

Chris Wauchop was born in Deniliquin in regional Australia in 1954. Chris's career began in the photo studio of a major Sydney advertising agency. From here, Chris moved on to professional model making at Lego. After nearly five years, he decided to go solo, opening a hobby shop called "Absolute Hobbies" in suburban Sydney. This became a Mecca for local modellers. The end of the property lease after seven years prompted another career change, this time painting props and vehicles for the science fiction movie, Red Planet. Chris

has built many models for commercial advertising, displays at trade shows, articles for magazines and websites including Tamiya Model Magazine, AIR Modeller, HyperScale and Missing-Lynx, and has been a contributor to many modelling books. Chris now lives in semi-retirement on Sydney's northern beaches with his wife Deirdre. ■

The dodgers hide some of the detail when viewed from the side, but lend a different character to the completed boat.





Al Bowie is suitably impressed by Tasca's new 1:35 scale mid-production diesel Sherman.

A EUROPEAN SWALLOW

The M4A2 Sherman was the most numerous variant of the Sherman Tank produced by the US during WWII with 8053 75mm armed and 2,915 76mm armed vehicles being produced. The Sherman also served with the greatest number of user nations. The UK, Canada, France, Poland, New Zealand, USSR and the US Marines used the M4A2 in action. The diesel powered M4A2

featured many sub types. The so-called Cast Hood version now follows on from Tasca's excellent 1:35 scale DV kits. This kit represents a mid-production vehicle and has a hull configuration likely to have been produced by either Pullman or Federal Machine & Welder.

The M4A2 Shermans were, with the exception of the USMC and US Army stateside training, reserved for Lend Lease service. The UK was a major beneficiary, taking deliveries of thousands of M4A2s. The M4A2 was the backbone of Commonwealth & Polish tank strength in the Mediterranean until replaced by the late M4A1 76 mm variants in British and South African armoured formations. It remained the principal tank in New Zealand and Polish formations in Italy until the war's end. Two British and one Canadian Brigade were equipped with the M4A2 for the invasion of Europe. Many also landed with the French and served with the USSR.

The kit is based on Tasca's earlier released 1:35 scale M4A2 DV and shares the majority of parts from this kit and other Tasca Shermans, although this one is moulded in olive coloured styrene. The major differences are the new hull part, which has a late configuration mid-production glacis with the cast hoods. These are superbly moulded and Tasca has captured the complex shape of the modified DV Hood castings exceptionally well including the correct cast numbers and foundry marks. Other differences are the tracks, which represent the T49 - three bar cleated steel track - and the new pattern British turret stowage box which was frequently seen on UK and Commonwealth M4A2s.

Similar to the earlier

releases, this kit offers the clear parts in the form of periscopes and lenses for the driving lights. It also includes the excellent Tasca .50 cal M2 machine gun, which has both the small and later larger ammo cans. British smoke dischargers, antenna mounts and even biscuit 7 oil tins are included although the US style jerry cans are not. Photo-etch is again offered for the light guards (also supplied in plastic) along with the jig introduced in their first Sherman kit the VC Firefly

Markings are provided for two British vehicles that saw service in Normandy with 27th and 8th Armoured Brigades.

This kit maintains Tasca's high standards and is by far the best cast hood hull M4A2 yet kitted in plastic. It is not without criticism however and I feel the hatch positive locks are not represented as well as they could be, appearing as small blobs whilst the one piece differential is not quite as "beefy" as it should be. These are easy to fix areas and it goes to prove that the perfect Sherman kit is still out there somewhere although in its absence these are the next best thing. DML is getting a lot better with each new Sherman release too. I'm sure the competition is a healthy thing for the consumer with better and better Sherman Kits gracing the shelves. By using aftermarket decals, a string of colourful Shermans can soon grace modellers' shelves.

A stunning mid production M4A2 Sherman can be made from Tasca's kit and a lot of very useful parts will be added to the spares box, such as their excellent (and correct) cupola and hatches, rail kit and sandshields.

It took years for the M4A2 to appear in plastic but this eclipses what was already a great kit of the subject released by DML. ■

Thanks to Tasca for the sample
www.tasca-modellismo.com



An all-new upper hull has been provided in this kit.



Tasca has captured the complex shape of the modified DV hood castings exceptionally well.



The excellent turret will be familiar to modellers who already have earlier versions of Tasca's Sherman kits.



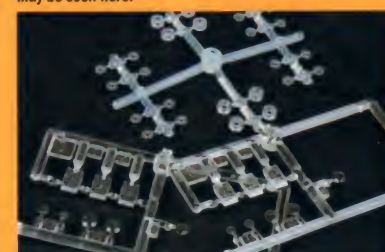
The turret ring features a clever "click in place" system.



A new style of rear turret box is provided in this kit.



Some of the unique elements of the diesel-powered M4A2 may be seen here.



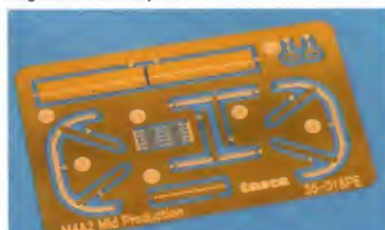
Clear parts are offered for periscopes and lenses. Polythene parts are clear too.



Flexible bumpers are provided for the suspension.



T49 three bar cleated steel track are supplied in four lengths of flexible vinyl.



A small photo-etched fret includes brush guards for the lights and other small details.



The compact decal sheet has markings for two vehicles.



STANDARD CAMOUFLAGE COLOURS FOR MIDDLE EAST



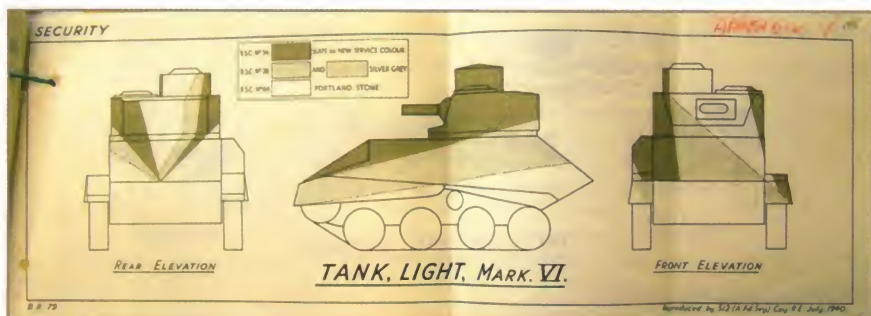
PART TWO LIGHT TANK MK.VI

William Marshall continues his analysis of an important source document describing the contentious camouflage colours used by British and Commonwealth military vehicles during the WWII campaign for the Middle East and North Africa. In Part Two, William describes the application of Caunter camouflage to the Vickers Light Tank Mk.VI in the Middle East.

Production of the Light Tank Mk.VI began in 1936 by Vickers-Armstrong and ended in 1940 with approximately 1,000 Mark VI tanks having been built. This light tank was used against the Italians late in 1940 with the 3rd Hussars and the 7th Armoured Division. Some of the most interesting and colourful camouflage in the Middle East was the Caunter scheme applied to these tanks. A fair number of good photos of this tank in Caunter colours may be found. ■

Top and Left: The Mk VI Light tank in the 1940 camouflage charts issued by the ME Command. The left hand profile is as drawn is quite accurate as the commander's turret is shown in Slate when it would have been within the Portland Stone area. (Chart via Shane Lovell)

Below: My understanding of the Caunter Scheme based on the SCCME.

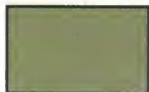


SCCME 11



BSC 64
PORTLAND
STONE

SCCME 21

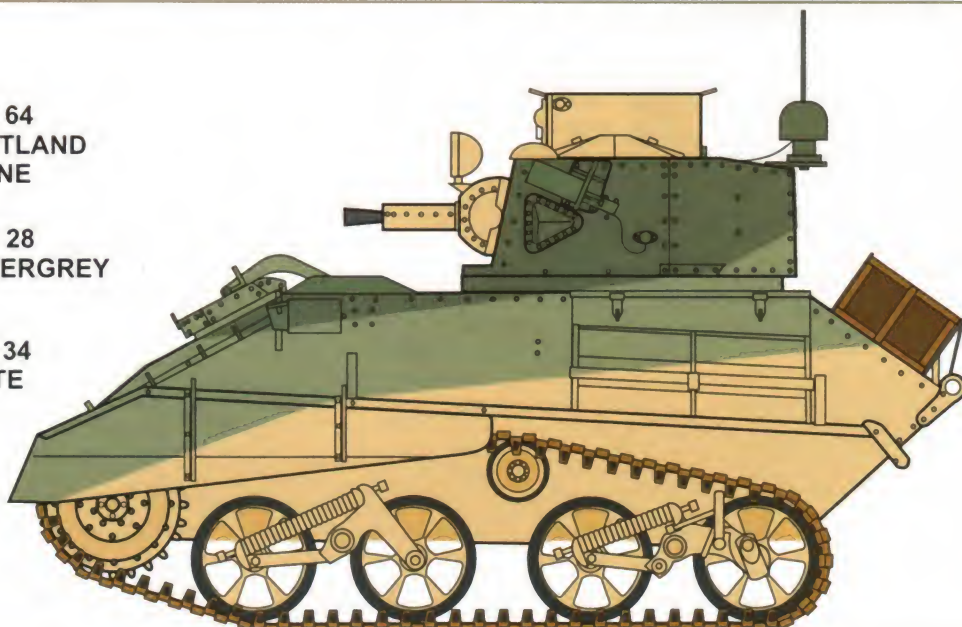


BSC 28
SILVERGREY

SCCME 16



BSC 34
SLATE





Andrew Judson discovers that Trumpeter's new 1:35 scale Panzerjager Triebwagen 51 may not have seen active service, but this heavily armed rail car offers plenty of potential.

REICHSBAHN '46!

The Panzerjager Triebwagen 51 was first suggested as a new rail defence wagon in 1943. By the time its design and construction was completed in 1944-45, it was too late to make any impact. Only three Triebwagen 51s were ever manufactured and Allied forces found all of these at the factory. It is not known if any of these were ever actually used in service or fired a shot in anger.

Trumpeter has now released this interesting armed wagon in 1:35 scale. Although the subject matter is certainly unusual, it won't disappoint. The kit comes packed in a large, sturdy and well illustrated box. A total of 471 parts in grey plastic, and a further 80 parts in etched brass are provided. Also included is a small decal sheet, an A4 size colour and markings guide, and an instruction manual with 12 pages of well-illustrated assembly guides.

Looking at the instructions and the contents, it seems that this will be a fairly quick and easy build, thanks to the clever engineering of this kit.

There are some very impressive features. One that really stood out for me was the fit to the two main body halves, which I initially thought was a one piece moulding, and my mind boggled as to how have they managed it. Then I cracked opened the plastic seam and I realised it was two parts. An excellent fit.

The two Panzer IV turrets feature a fair

amount of internal detail, including a full gun and breech, turret basket, seating for the crew and hydraulics. Very nice. The additional turret armour is also well done and comes with the choice of plastic or photo. The photo-etched parts are quite detailed but some time and care will be needed to get all the correct angles for the armour and the mounts, though the extra effort will be worth it. Either way, both plastic and PE options are very nice.

You also get a section of track and ballast to display this your completed wagon. With some careful painting and weathering, this will look the part.

Painting this kit will be a lot of fun. The instructions show the wagon in overall Dark Yellow, but what is to stop one from adding some late war camouflage and a splash of that red primer? After all, if the wagon did not see service, who knows what hypothetical schemes it might have worn.

In summary, this is a fascinating and nicely detailed model with a lot of potential, and as many great features. If you are after a small kit, then you're better think twice. At 405.5mm in length it will take up some serious shelf space. Despite its size, though, it should be a fast and satisfying build. Highly recommended. ■

Thanks to JB Wholesalers for the sample www.jbwholesalers.com



The two main hull mouldings are in excess of 400mm, and the fit is superb.



The lower hull is moulded with open areas for the railway running gear.



The wheels and suspension are boxed into plastic sponsons.



The two Panzer IV turrets are nicely detailed.



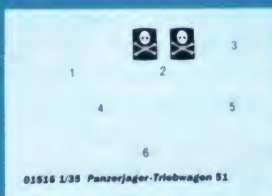
Side turret armour is impressively thin at the edges. The plastic parts will be easy to install too.



If you are up for more of a challenge, the side armour is also provided in photo-etched brass as an option.



Railway track and ballast is included as a display base for your wagon.



Markings for one vehicle are supplied, but many hypothetical possibilities exist for this Reichsbahn '46 project!

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The Editor completes Zvezda's 1:35 scale ISU-152, and finishes the model in a coat of distressed winter whitewash.



MADE IN RUSSIA

PART TWO – FINISHING THE BEAST

In the first instalment of our short series, we added surface texture, some structure under the vents, mesh grilles and a beautiful new turned metal gun barrel from Aber to Zvezda's 1:35 scale ISU-152 from the mid-1990s.

With the barrel and mantlet now attached to the superstructure, a few more details were added. Electrical conduits were cut from flexible fuse wire and secured with super glue. Individual bolt heads were punched from plastic strip using a Waldron Sub-Miniature Punch and Die Set. These were added to the upper mantlet cover, the top of the superstructure and various hinges.

The drive sprockets and inner halves of the road wheels were glued to the axles, but the outer halves were left off until the model was nearly complete.

SHODDING

Even if you can't really judge a man by his shoes, a respectable set of tracks makes a big difference to an armour model. Zvezda supplies four lengths of stiff and softly detailed vinyl track lengths. These are probably the worst aspect of the entire kit, especially considering that the characteristic drape usually seen on these heavy Soviet vehicles would be impossible to duplicate using these crude vinyl strips.

There are plenty of replacement track options for the IS family these days, including individual links from Fruiamodel, Modelkasten and Trumpeter. I chose workable plastic links from Modelkasten. This company offers several styles of IS tracks. I used the Stalin 2 Type B tracks, item no. SK-14.

Patience is the key when

assembling any set of individual tracks. My first task was to remove all the links from the sprues and trim off any excess plastic that might interfere with the fit or workability of the tracks later on. As these are two-part tracks

– one part has the guide horn and the other does not – the different links were sorted and stored after cleanup in clear plastic cups.

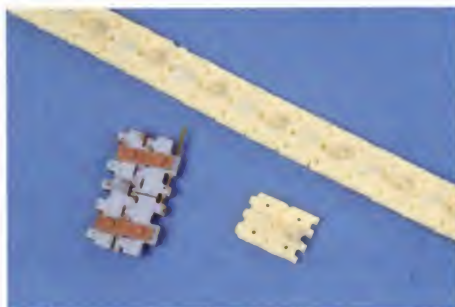
Modelkasten thoughtfully moulds the track pins onto sprue handles. Each sprue has eight individual

Here is the model as we left it in Issue 45, with basic construction well underway and just some details to add.





The kit's stiff vinyl tracks were replaced with Modelkasten individual plastic links. A jig is supplied to assist assembly.



Spare track links were put together for the forward lower hull. The links on the port side appear to be from a BT-7. These were sourced from the resin Track Pack included with Accurate Armour's BT-7 kit.



Assembling the tracks in sections of six links makes the task less tedious. The sprue handles remain attached to the track pins until the cement has completely set. They can then simply be twisted off.

track pins plus eight more arranged onto double sprue handles. An assembly jig for six links is also supplied with the tracks. Putting the links together is really quite simple. First, drop the six links onto the jig – their location is positive and precise. Next, place a tiny drop of glue on the tip of the track pin and, using the sprue handle, carefully push a pin into the hole into one of the holes the side of the tracks. You should feel a slight “click” as the pin slides into the correct position. The process is the same for the double-sprue track pins. Note that you will only be using five track pins on the six links. The sixth pin will be used later to join the multiple lengths of six links. Now carefully lift the six links from the jig and set them aside until the glue has set. After a few hours you can twist the sprue handles and they will cleanly snap off.

I had 14 lengths of six links

per side. You may need more or less depending on the position of the adjustable idler wheel swing arm (which acts as a track tensioner) and the desired amount of track drape. There are plenty of spare tracks regardless of your preference.

Once the handles were removed, the short lengths were coupled into one full track using the remaining track pins. This was the first time that I had used Modelkasten workable tracks and I was pleasantly surprised at the relative speed and ease of assembly. They look fantastic too. I would not hesitate to use them again.

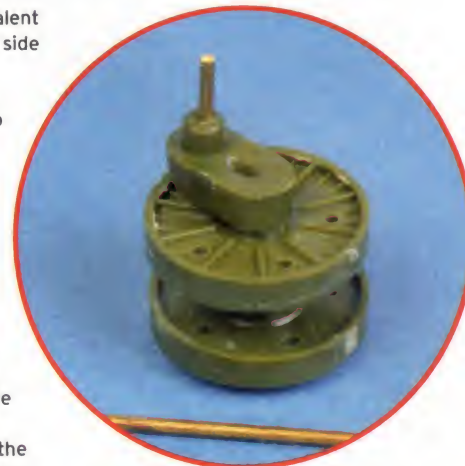
Zvezda's idler wheel swing arms are separate parts, but I thought it would be helpful if these were workable too. This would offer more flexibility when fitting the tracks and setting the drape of the upper run. The locating pins for the swing arms were drilled out and each was fitted with a short

length of brass rod. The equivalent position was drilled out on the side of the lower hull.

The track lengths and the idler wheels were test fitted to check length and drape. So far, so good!

THE GRAND ADVENTURE BEGINS

Steve Zaloga provided a photo of an ISU-152 in winter camouflage for Issue 45. This was an intriguing finish featuring hard-edged and geometrical demarcation between the white and green camouflage on the superstructure. Because only the front of the vehicle and a section of the starboard side were on view in the photo, much of the overall camouflage would be left to the imagination. Even so, I decided that I had to try to replicate this fascinating scheme. ▶



The swing arm for the idler wheel was drilled and pinned to permit the track to be tensioned after assembly.

The tracks are test-fitted and smaller details added, including the front spare links, headlight and the horn.



This photo, via Steve Zaloga, was the inspiration for my winter whitewash finish. Note the relatively hard-edged camouflage on the front and sides of the superstructure.





The model was sprayed with Tamiya Grey Primer straight from the can. Some dust was trapped under the lacquer coat. The offending areas were stripped with lacquer thinner and a cotton bud.



The base colour is Tamiya XF-68 NATO Green acrylic.



A second coat of Tamiya Grey Primer resulted in a flawless finish. The outer sections of the road wheels were left off at this stage.



NATO Green was mixed with around 20% Tamiya XF-60 Dark Yellow to offer some variation to the basic finish.

◀ The first step was to apply a coat of Tamiya Grey Primer straight from the can. This is helpful to identify any gaps or other imperfections before the camouflage is applied. In fact, what it identified was dust! The model had been awaiting paint for a few months and had accumulated dust

on the upper surfaces. This was very obvious under the grey primer, so a cotton bud dipped in lacquer thinner was used to carefully remove the offending areas. After light sanding, the model was resprayed with grey primer for a smoother result. The moral of this story is to make sure your model is

clean before applying paint!

The base camouflage colour was Tamiya XF-67 NATO Green, applied with the Iwata Eclipse HP-TR trigger-action airbrush. This airbrush is ideal for relatively broad areas of coverage. A dusty, disruptive mix of NATO Green with around 20% XF-60 Dark Yellow

was then sprayed randomly onto the lower surfaces and the bottom edges of the superstructure. The Iwata Eclipse HP-C Plus airbrush was used for this job, as I find it is better for applying subtle detail. Precision is not important at this stage, as later weathering will obscure most of the dusty effect.



This vehicle featured a roughly hand-painted number. The digits were first drawn onto a piece of paper in pencil.



The outlines of the digits were traced onto the reverse of the paper.



The paper was then placed against the hull before rubbing down the numbers with a pencil. This left a faint outline of the digits directly on the painted plastic.



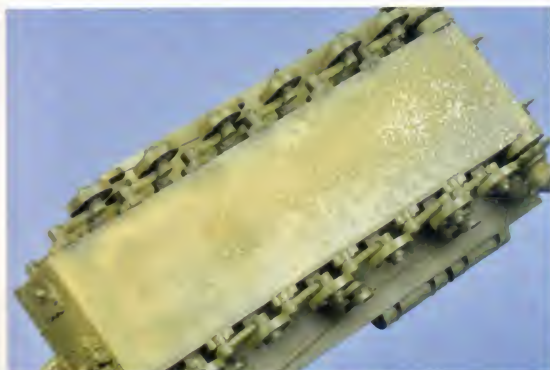
A white indelible pen was used to draw the outline of the numbers over the pencil markings.



The digits were then filled in with white Vallejo acrylic paint using a fine brush.



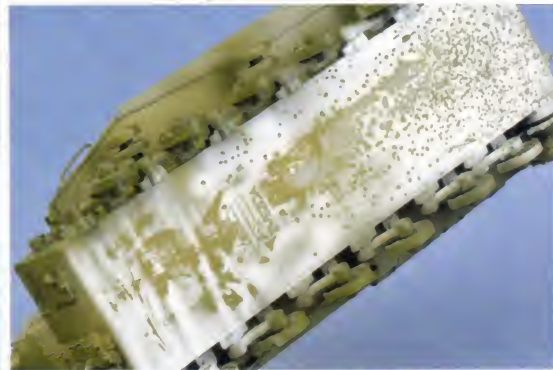
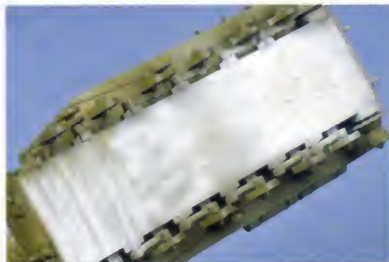
The model received a generous coat of hairspray before the winter whitewash was applied.



I tested the hairspray technique on the bottom of the hull before committing to more obvious areas of the model.



I took the opportunity to test a related weathering technique using salt. Common table salt was sprinkled on the still-wet hairspray.



Two thin coats of white acrylic paint were sprayed on the lower hull. I varied the application from solid in places to streaky in others.

When the paint had dried, only some minutes later, the white coat was scrubbed with a toothbrush. The result was wildly overstated where the salt had been removed, but the rest of the lower hull showed some promise.

EXTRACTING THE DIGITS

Before going further, the distinctive crudely painted digits were applied to the sides of the superstructure. A piece of paper was cut to the approximate size of the superstructure front side panel, then the numbers were drawn in pencil. The outlines of the digits were traced onto the reverse side of the paper before the sheet was placed against the hull. The digits were then rubbed down with a pencil. This left a faint outline of the digits directly on the

painted plastic.

I bought a white indelible pen at a local Art and Craft shop to draw the outline of the numbers over the pencil markings. This was a Uni Posca Round-Tip Ultra Fine White Waterproof Pen, Item No. PC-1MR. The outline was then filled in with Foundation White Vallejo acrylic paint using a fine brush. The first attempt looked a bit thick compared to the reference photo, so the digits were refined several times over the course of further painting and weathering.



Several large panels of winter whitewash were sprayed onto the hull using the reference photo as a guide.



Other areas were masked for a hard-edged demarcation.

DISTRESSING THE WHITEWASH

I had read about the so-called hairspray method of weathering and was impressed with the results that other modellers obtained, but I had never tried it myself. This seemed to be the perfect opportunity.

The theory behind the technique is that the hairspray acts as a temporary, water-soluble barrier between the base camouflage coat and the weathering coat. The application of water and scrubbing should reveal the base coat under

a randomly distressed topcoat of weathering.

Not being a big user of hairspray myself, I quietly removed a can of my wife's Pantene Pro-V Style from the bathroom cabinet and applied a generous layer over the entire model straight from the can. This resulted in a fast-drying semi-gloss finish. The model smelt nicer afterwards too.

Rather than invite disaster in the most prominent areas of the model, I initially tested the technique on the bottom of



The white paint was dampened and carefully scrubbed with several cut-down brushes and an old toothbrush.



The front hull and superstructure received a fairly solid coat of white. The effect looks a bit harsh at this stage.



After more thought, the top of the superstructure was sprayed white too.

the hull. In addition to the basic technique, I also sprinkled salt on one side of the hull bottom while the hairspray was still wet. When the hairspray seemed thoroughly dry - not much more than ten minutes really - I sprayed several thin coats of Tamiya XF-2 Flat White over the plastic. I varied the application from solid in places to streaky in others.

With only a few minutes delay, I used an old toothbrush dipped in water to loosen the salt and the white paint. The salted surfaces were immediately transformed, but it took a minute or so before any of the other paint was removed. The result was wildly overstated where the salt had been displaced, but the rest of the lower hull showed some promise.

Several large panels of winter whitewash were next sprayed onto the sides of the superstructure using the reference photo as a guide. The white paint was dampened down and carefully scrubbed with several cut-down brushes and an old toothbrush. Other areas were masked for a hard-edged demarcation. The front hull and superstructure received a fairly

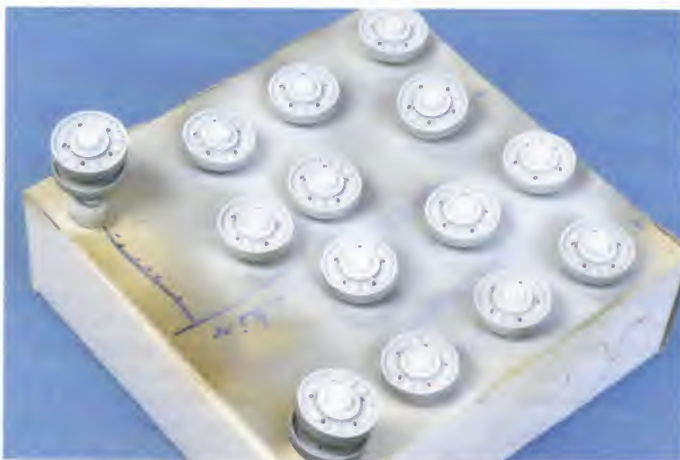
solid coat of white.

Up until this point I thought that I would limit the whitewash finish to the sides of the superstructure and the front of the vehicle, which would have resulted in a high contrast between the white and the green camouflage zones. After more thought, however, I realised that it was more likely that the vehicle would have worn a more comprehensive whitewash, so the top of the superstructure and the rear hull were sprayed white too. The horizontal areas were more heavily distressed with additional scrubbing, revealing much more of the original green camouflage beneath. I assumed that the footfall of the crew plus wear and tear from tank riders would have worn away most of the whitewash on top of the vehicle.

The technique was repeated at least a half a dozen times to fine tune the effect in specific areas. Finally, the wheels were also given the treatment. In the photo, the wheels looked quite clean and bright, so most of the whitewash was left in place. A thin coat of Grey Filter for Bright White P404 was brushed over the top of the



A variety of brushes were used to loosen the acrylic white paint. Here we can see the old toothbrush for large areas, plus two cut-down brushes for detail weathering.



The outer wheels were given the same treatment. They were sprayed separately.

paint, although the effect was very understated once dry.

FINISHING TOUCHES

With the distressed whitewash now in place, the entire model was given two thin coats of Gunze Clear Flat. The lower hull sides and sponsons were dirtied up, starting with a brushed coat of Tamiya's new Diorama Texture Paint - Soil Effect Dark Earth. This textured paint looks

good straight from the bottle but I added a selected application of Mig Productions' Industrial City Dirt Pigment P039 for a little variety. Mig's Oil and Grease Stain Mixture was also applied sparingly in places.

The exhausts were one of the few areas of relief from the otherwise relentless green and white. These were painted with a mix of Tamiya



The exhausts were one of the few areas of relief from the relentless green and white. These were painted with a mix of Tamiya acrylic paints and Mig pigments.





The previously assembled tracks were painted with a mix of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown. I donned a latex glove to allow the nooks and crannies of the flexible lengths.



Before being added to the vehicle, the tracks were weathered with a sludge mix of Mig's Industrial City Dirt pigment, with patches of Tamiya's new Soil Effect Diorama Texture paint. The tops of the track pads were "scuffed" with the tip of a regular 2B pencil.

acrylic paints and Mig pigments.

The previously assembled tracks were sprayed with a mix of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown. I donned a latex glove to allow the paint to penetrate the nooks and crannies of the flexible lengths. Before being added to the vehicle, the tracks were weathered with a sludge mix of Mig's Industrial City Dirt pigment, with patches of Tamiya's new Soil Effect Diorama Texture paint. The

tops of the track pads were scuffed with the tip of a regular 2B pencil.

Murphy's Law struck close to the finishing line. Firstly, I broke one of the idler wheels off its axle while test fitting the tracks. This was repaired by drilling and pinning with brass rod. I also misplaced the separate hatch covers for the round forward hatch. I adapted parts from an old T-34 kit to suit. It is not correct by any means, but TMMI Editor

Marcus Nicholls is kindly sending new parts so that I can replace the inaccurate hatches soon.

The plug for the pistol port was scratch built from plastic scrap and tube. This was glued to a short length of fine brass chain. The chain was soaked for 30 seconds in a clear liquid product called Black Magic, one of several products that

will permanently blacken steel and brass. The chain was a nice metallic shade of black after it was fished out of the liquid. ▶

The winter whitewash was fine tuned with at least a half dozen repeat treatments. The large digits were also refined using a fine brush.



The top surfaces were seriously weathered to reflect heavy footfall and general wear in these high traffic areas.



I broke off the idler wheel while test fitting the painted tracks.

The solution was to drill and pin the wheel and swing arm with a length of brass rod.



Black Magic is one of several products that will permanently blacken steel and brass. Simply soak the parts, et voila!





The lower hull sides and sprocket covers were dirtied up with a brushed base coat of Tamiya's new Soil Effect Diorama Texture paint, followed by random patches of Mig's Industrial City Dirt pigment. Mig Oil and Grease Stain Mixture was sparingly added later.



Mig's Oil and Grease Stain Mixture was also used on various hinges and other moving parts.



Detail parts were painted and weathered separately. The plug for the pistol ports was scratch built from plastic scrap and tube glued to fine brass chain.

“Even if you can't really judge a man by his shoes, a respectable set of tracks makes a big difference to an armour model.”

Zvezda's older 1:35 scale ISU-152 can still be made into a nice model with a bit of extra work and the help of after-market tracks.



The fuel drums were painted differently for some variety.



The kit's headlight was replaced with an Elf headlamp from Little Cars of the UK.



I lost the starboard side hatch halves between assembly and painting. I adapted an old T-34 hatch, but I will eventually replace this with something more accurate.



The exhaust stain was a thin sooty mix of Tamiya XF-1 Flat Black and XF-64 Red Brown.



A thin dark mix was employed for some additional weathering over the whitewash and green finish.



The fully workable Modelkasten tracks suggest the realistic sag of the heavy ISU tracks.



◀ I replaced the kit headlight with an item from Elf that features a nice bright silver reflector and a clear lens.

When I fitted the tracks, they seemed a little tighter than when I test fitted them earlier. I added one extra link to each side. This restored the level of sag to the upper track run.

CONCLUSION

Zvezda's 1:35 scale ISU-152 has been surpassed in almost every respect by the new Tamiya kit, but if you have one unbuilt in your modelling stash it may still be brought up to a respectable standard.

I really enjoyed improving this old kit, and I was quite satisfied with the level of detail and general outline of Zvezda's ISU-152 by the end of the project. The Aber barrel,

the Eduard photo-etch and in particular the Modelkasten tracks made a big impact. I was also pleased and surprised with my first attempt at the hairspray technique. It seems to work very well, and will have applications beyond whitewash for effects such as sand camouflage, rust, fragmentation damage and more.

Now, what old kit should I work on next? ■

Modelspec

Zvezda 1:35 Russian ISU-152

Kit No. 3532

Accessories

Modelkasten 1:35 "KV & JS Tank Split Tracks" (SK-14)
Aber 1:35 152mm ML-20S Barrel. (35 L-40)
Eduard 1:35 Photo-Etched Detail Set for Zvezda/Italeri ISU-152. (35157)
Elf Productions Headlights from Little Cars
www.littlecars.co.uk

Tools and Materials Used

Dremel Motor Tool with a range of dental burs.
Waldron Sub-Miniature Punch and Die Set.
An assortment of brass wire, metal rod, fuse wire, plastic sheet and strip.
Short section of BT-7 track from Accurate Armour's resin kit.
Revell Contacta Cement.
Tamiya Extra Thin Liquid Cement.
Gator's Grip Acrylic Hobby Glue
Selleys Super Glue.
Milliput White two-part epoxy putty.
Iwata Eclipse HP-TR trigger-action airbrush
www.airbrushes.com
Iwata Eclipse HP-C Plus airbrush.

Paints

Tamiya Acrylic Paints: XF-1 Flat Black; XF-2 Flat White; XF-10 Flat Brown; XF-60 Dark Yellow; XF-64 Red Brown; XF-67 NATO Green; XF-68 NATO Brown.
Uni Posca Round-Tip Ultra Fine White Waterproof Pen. Item No. PC-1MR
Vallejo 919 Foundation White

Weathering Materials:

Tamiya Diorama Texture Paint - Soil Effect Dark Earth.
Mig Productions: Industrial City Dirt Pigment P039; Grey Filter for Bright White P404; Oil and Grease Stain Mixture.
Vallejo Natural Iron Oxide Pigment 73115
Copperplate 2B Pencil
Pantene Pro-V Style Hairspray

- ✓ Accurate outline and dimensions; restrained surface detail; good fit.
- ✗ Awful stiff vinyl tracks; solid vents; some clunky detail.

Available from

Distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited
www.hobbyco.net
Thanks to Creative Models Australia for the Modelkasten tracks www.creativemodels.com.au

Rating ●●●●●●●●●●



CRAWLING BOX

Javier Redondo Gimenez recreates a scene from the bitter street fighting in Stalingrad using Dragon's 1:35 scale sIG 33 auf Fgst.Pz.Kpfw. III.

During the Wehrmacht's advance through Poland in September 1939, it was found that heavy infantry support artillery could not match the pace of the Panzers. It was therefore decided to mount the 150 mm sIG 33 L/11 infantry support gun to the chassis of the obsolescent Panzer I Ausf. B to deliver a stop-gap self-propelled weapon. The result was a top-heavy, exposed and highly vulnerable weapon. The weight of the gun also led to many breakdowns of the light Panzer I chassis and drive train. Even so, the concept showed promise and Alkett had

produced 38 of these vehicles by February 1940.

Logically, the gun was next fitted to the Panzer III chassis in an attempt to create a more stable self-propelled infantry support weapon. The Stug. III Ausf. E chassis was employed as the basis for this new combination, along with a new fully enclosed box superstructure to house the cannon, and 30 rounds of ammunition. A ball-mounted MG 34 machine gun was installed at the front of the superstructure. The new vehicle had a five-man crew, and was given the catchy name of sIG 33 auf Fgst.Pz.Kpfw. III, but we

will simply call it the sIG 33 for the sake of brevity!

24 of these boxy self-propelled sIG 33 conversions were manufactured by Alkett from December 1941 until October 1942.

The first Company to use this new sIG 33 self-propelled gun in action was Sturmgeschütz Abteilung 177. This unit comprised twelve sIG 33 auf Fgst.Pz.Kpfw. III. It was urgently despatched to Stalingrad in November 1942, where the German 6th Army of Von Paulus had stalled in his attempt to conquer the city. The sIG 33 was deployed to support the infantry assault during the savage

street fighting that took place in the city. All units were lost in the winter of 1942/43.

The other twelve sIG 33s were allocated to Sturm Schwere Infanteriegeschütz, incorporated into the 23 Panzer Division and sent to try to break the siege of Stalingrad. The last specimens were still available in the summer of 1943 for the largest armoured battle in history - Kursk.

BUILDING OUR CRAWLING BOX

This is Dragon's 1:35 scale sIG 33 auf Fgst.Pz.Kpfw. III. Although it is currently out of production, it is not too difficult to find at model



The running gear was replaced with parts from Tamiya's 1:35 scale Stug III Ausf. G.



The resin jack is from Royal models.



The large stowage box on the rear of the hull is from Part.

club meetings, swap meets or online. The first impression, even in this smaller size, is that this is a very ugly vehicle – but perhaps that is part of its peculiar appeal.

The model is presented on five plastic sprues with photo-etched grilles and a decal sheet that includes markings for StG Adt. 177. The marking guide incorrectly suggests that the vehicle should be painted in three-colour camouflage, but more on that later.

The design of this vehicle is not much more than a crawling box, so painting its smooth flat surfaces is very straightforward.

The main challenge for the modeller is the entire suspension

and running gear. I replaced mine with parts from Tamiya's 1:35 scale Stug III Ausf. G. Tamiya's parts are moulded better and have superior detail when compared to Dragon's running gear.

I also substituted an aluminium gun barrel from Jordi Rubio for the plastic kit parts. The Jordi Rubio barrel features internal rifling inside the bore, something which is quite obvious in a gun of this size.

Aber's photo-etched mudguards were perfect for simulating the battle-damage sustained during combat. Additional small details including tool and stowage mounts were sourced from a Part photo-etched set.

Fruilmodel metal chains with independent links require no further comment, since their quality and performance are well known.

ANY COLOUR YOU WANT AS LONG AS IT IS GREY

All the sIG 33s that saw service at Stalingrad were painted overall RAL 7021 Dunkelgrau. I have never felt very confident or happy with this colour, but as I had no choice I pushed on regardless. In the end, I was happy with the result.

The base colour was a mix of Tamiya acrylic XF-50 Field Blue, XF-63 German Grey and XF-18 Medium Blue in a ratio of 70:25:5. Once the base colour was in

place, the centres of the various panels were sprayed with a slightly paler shade, lightened with a little XF-1 Flat White.

The simple Balkenkreuz decals were applied with the assistance of Micro Set and Micro Sol.

Panel lines and structural features were highlighted with sprayed lines of heavily thinned mix of XF-64 Red Brown and XF-1 Flat Black.

A colour filter was now applied using P241 and P240 Blue Brown from SIN Industries. I tried to apply this in a random fashion, and made sure that the filter had a chance to dry between coats.

Earth coloured oil paints were ►



Painting commences with a base colour mixed from Tamiya acrylics.



The inside of panels have been sprayed a slightly paler shade of Panzer Grey, mixed with Tamiya XF-1 Flat White.



A colour filter was now applied using P241 and P240 Blue Brown from SIN Industries.



Earth coloured oil paints were now mixed into a watery solution as a further wash.



Wear and tear was represented by tiny portions of oil paints, blended together to ensure varied intensity.



The weathering was next wiped and the diluted oils applied again as necessary.



The lettering on the stowage box was carefully hand painted.



Dry pigments were added in appropriate areas.



Mig's Black Smoke pigment delivers a convincingly sooty effect around the exhausts.



Surface chipping is applied using black and white Vallejo acrylic paints.



Metallic effects are added in places with the edge of a 2B pencil.



Grease and oil are simulated with Titan Bitumen oil paint.

now mixed into a watery solution as a further wash.

Wear and tear was represented by tiny portions of oil paints, blended together ensure varied intensity.

The weathering was next wiped and the diluted oils applied again as necessary. These steps were repeated a number of times until I was satisfied with the result.

The hand-painted markings on

the stowage box were added using Vallejo acrylic white and a fine brush.

A very realistic soot effect may be obtained with Mig's Black Smoke pigment.

RECREATING STALINGRAD

My sIG 33 was destined to be placed in legendary Soviet city of Stalingrad. I tried to create an urban combat environment

where these tanks were used to support the infantry assault in the bloody struggle for the city, neighbourhood by neighbourhood, house by house.

For this I employed a compressed composition with various levels, which aids and reinforces the visual impact. It uses the ubiquitous foam that may be simply shaped with a sharp knife.

MiniArt's Item No. 36,002

"Russian Street" fits perfectly in this scene.

Paint was from Tamiya and Vallejo acrylics. The trench is made from timber strips for model boats, Magic

Sculp putty and fine sand.

The figure suggests the scale and proportions. This Warrior figure was a gift from my friend, Diego Jimenez, and was painted with acrylic colors.

The debris is a jumble of Verlinden bricks, cat litter, fine sand, strips of wood and other materials from the spares box, all set with white glue diluted with water and then painted with a brush.

The scene was finally blended with Industrial Earth 090 oil wash from Abteilung 502, heavily diluted and then fixed with different pigments. ■



The figure is from the Warriors range.

Modelspec

Dragon 1:35 sIG 33 auf Fgst.Pz.Kpfw. III Kit No. 6042

Materials

Part Sturm 15 cm Infanteriegeschütz 33 photp-etch (P35-085)

Aber Fenders Pz. III (35A14)

Jordi Rubio sIG 33, Turned Aluminium Barrel (TG-11)

Royal Model Panzer III/IV Jack (176)

Warriors Wehrmacht Grenadier (35.265)

Miniart Russian Street with advertising column (36,002)

Paints used

Tamiya Acrylics. Vallejo Acrylics. Mig Pigments.

Vallejo Filters Abteilung 502 Oil Washes.

✓ Interesting subject; easy to build; well detailed; includes individual link tracks.

✗ Poor running gear; not currently in Dragon's catalogue.

Available from

All good model shops Worldwide.

Distributed in the UK by The Hobby Company Limited.

Rating ●●●●●○○○



The base represents the chaos of street fighting in Stalingrad.



The vehicle and the scene have been blended.



The figure lends a sense of proportion and context to the scene.

"The design of this vehicle is not much more than a crawling box, so painting its smooth flat surfaces is very straightforward."

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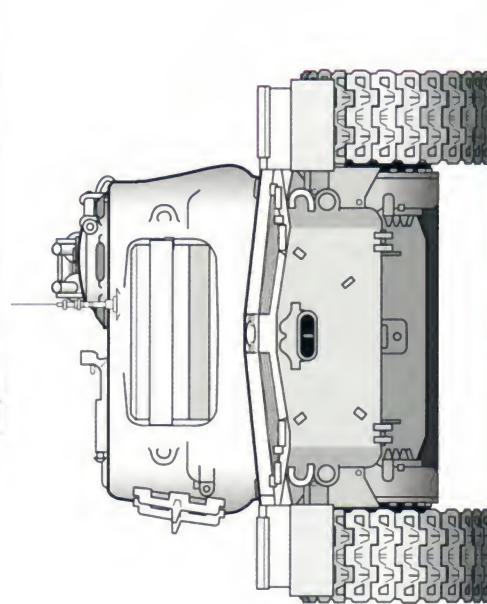
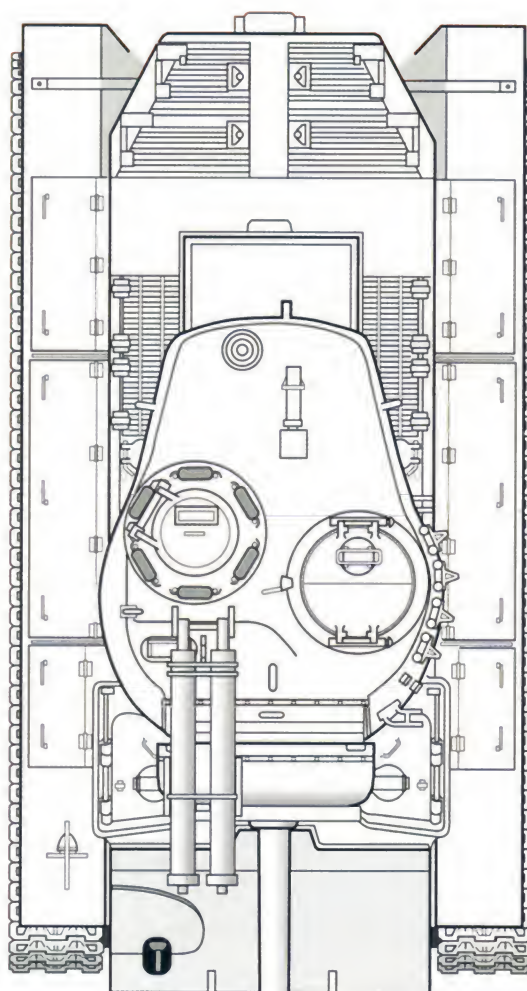
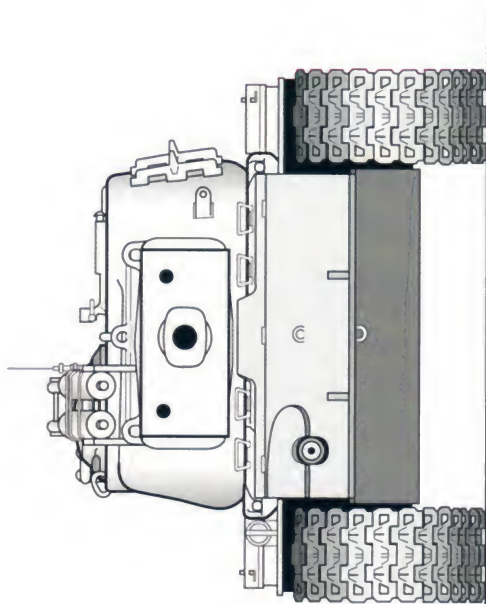
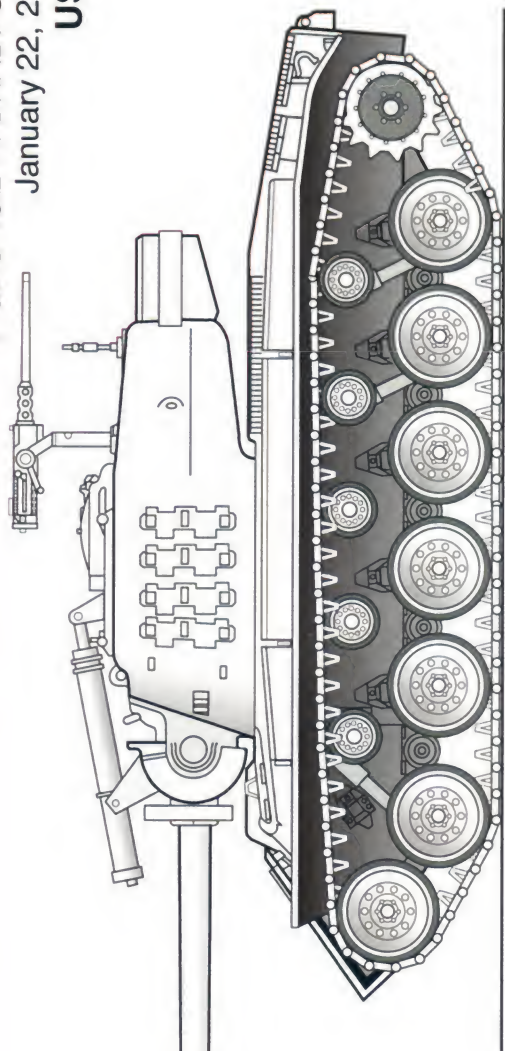
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T26E4 SUPER PERSHING

Here are George Bradford's 1:48 scale plans for a T26E4 Super Pershing.

© GEORGE R. BRADFORD
January 22, 2001
US-6

T26E4 Super Pershing
Temporary Pilot No. 1, Europe, April 1945
3rd Armored Division



This one would be a fairly straightforward conversion starting with Tamiya's 1:48 scale M26 Pershing kit as a base and adding WWII Productions' tracks, but remember to add the slight downward sweep

to the suspension. The turret will be the most challenging aspect to this conversion but with the aid of this drawing, the loader's hatch can be borrowed from the Hobby Boss range of Sherman kits. This would be a most impressive model when complete. ■



HobbyBoss continues to explore the less travelled modelling path of indigenous Chinese armour with their new 1:35 scale ZLC-2000.

AIRBORNE ARMOUR

The ZLC-2000 is the first Chinese-designed airborne combat vehicle. The ZLC-2000 entered service with the People's Liberation Army in 2003. It is capable of being dropped by parachute from any medium transport aircraft. However, unlike its Russian counterparts, the crew of the ZLC-2000 is dropped separately from the vehicle. Armament comprises a 25mm turret mounted cannon and an HJ-73C Anti-Tank Guided Missile launcher.

The modelling world has not exactly been awash with home-grown Chinese AFVs over the years, but HobbyBoss seems determined to redress this

shortage with its recent series of ZTZ Main Battle Tanks, ZBD and ZSL AFVs, and now the ZLC-2000.

HobbyBoss' 1:35 scale ZLC-2000 (C&C) comprises 222 parts in pale grey plastic, a small photo-etched fret and two lengths of flexible vinyl tracks. The quality of moulding is up to HobbyBoss' recent high standards, with no imperfections present anywhere that will be visible on the finished model – even on the insides of hatches.

Suspension arms are supplied separately. These may be posed for travel or for operation. A jig is included to assist alignment of the arms.

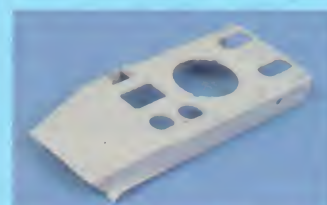
Although it is a fairly simple, boxy vehicle, the kit bristles with

small details. Tools, handrails, hinges, clamps and more are provided as small separate parts. Headlight lenses are separate parts but they are solid grey plastic. These should ideally be replaced with clear lenses. No interior detail is included.

The engine vents are really well done. These are covered with photo-etched mesh grilles. The Anti-Tank Missile is an interesting little assembly too.

Hobby Boss' ZLC-2000 is an interesting and well-detailed package of a little-known vehicle. ■

Hobby Boss is distributed in the UK by Creative Models www.creativemodels.co.uk



The one-piece hull is nicely moulded with a mix of raised and recessed surface features.



The turret is topped with an Anti-Tank Guided Missile.



A small fret of photo-etch provides mesh for the engine deck.



Tracks are full length flexible vinyl.



Zvezda expands its family of German transport trucks with its half-track Mercedes L 4500 R Maultier.

TRACKED MERC

The 4.5 ton Mercedes-Benz L 4500 R Maultier was a successful German half-track that was used for troop transport and logistics, but mainly as an artillery tractor. Some versions were also developed to mount a 3.7cm Flak gun on the cargo bed. Early models featured the steel cab as seen here in Zvezda's kit, while a simplified wooden cab was substituted in the last year of the war. The L 4500 R Maultier was a stop-gap solution that was required due to delays in manufacturing the SWS half track. 1,486 Mercedes L 4500 R Maultiers were produced in total.

Zvezda's 1:35 scale German Heavy Halftrack L 4500 R

Maultier comprises more than 250 parts in tan coloured plastic, five parts in clear and a small decal sheet. Many of the parts are shared with Zvezda's earlier L 4500 A 4x4. This is a bonus for the spares box, as many parts will be left over.

Moulding quality appears to be close to perfect. The kit features a complete engine and separate covers, so you will be able to display the powerplant when the model is finished. A different style of cargo tray is provided this time, with new higher wooden sides. A full tilt is offered as an option too. This is moulded in seven main parts for a satisfyingly saggy effect. The ends of the tilts may be posed rolled open or closed.

The new half-track running gear is beautifully done, especially the link and length tracks.

Zvezda's 1:35 scale L 4500 R Maultier is a terrific model with some very interesting potential for conversion. ■

Thanks to J.B. Wholesalers for the sample www.jbwholesalers.com.au



Thin clear parts are supplied for the windscreen and the side windows.



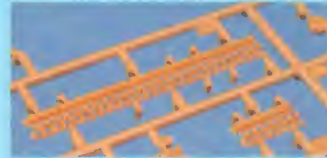
The cab is supplied in multiple parts with separate doors and engine covers.



Each tyre is made up from three parts – two on each outside edge and a centre section.



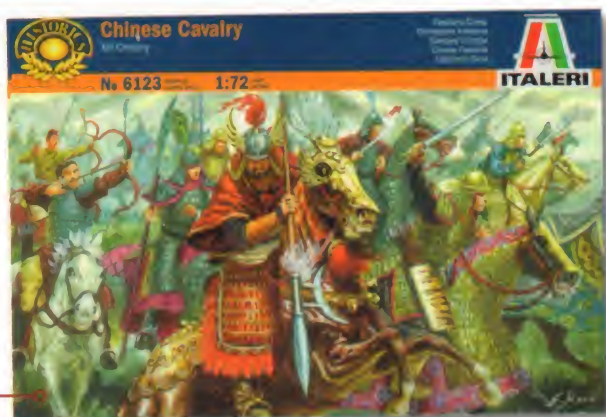
The big cargo bed and sides feature woodgrain texture.



Tracks are link and length. They are beautifully detailed with hollow guide teeth.



Small Scale A round-up of the latest news and releases in 1:72 and 1:76



ITALERI

1:72 CHINESE CAVALRY - XIII CENTURY KIT NO 6123

This is a new addition to Italeri's "Historics" range - fifteen mounted Chinese Warriors. The figures and horses are moulded in a slightly soft polystyrene that does not have the greasy feeling common in older sets of small scale figures that were often quite soft. As such the detail is also quite sharp and flash free. The poses and proportions all look good and the horses in particular are very well done indeed.

Highly recommended.

Thanks to Italeri for the samples.

Alex Clark



TRUMPETER

1:72 SD.KFZ. 182 KING TIGER (PORSCHE TURRET) KIT NO. 07202

As far as I am concerned, the trouble with Trumpeter kits is that you don't know what you are getting until you open the box and look. It could be anything from very good (such as their 1:72 scale Famo) to not so good (1:72 scale M4 Sherman). This one, the Porsche Turreted Tiger II, is somewhere in the middle.

The moulding is quite clean with no hint of flash or distortion and it really does look like a King Tiger. All the hatches are closed except the Commander's in the turret, which is better than none. Tracks are flexible vinyl with good detail on both sides but Trumpeter claims they can be glued with ordinary plastic glue and this is just not so.

The biggest problem with this kit, in my opinion, is the spare track links. Trumpeter still hasn't worked out that these links, mounted on the turret sides, are only visible from the guide tooth side. So, what do they do? They put all of the detail on the other side where it will not be seen and on the visible side you get two guide teeth and an ejection pin mark squashed in between where it can't be removed.

Decals look quite good but you might wonder why there are four options on the sheet but only one in the kit instructions. Then you will realise that they are for four different kits, 07201, 07202 (this one), 07291 and 07292 - one for each.

Instructions are very much what we have come to expect, no history (that is on the side of the box), a parts plan, 13 build diagrams and one page of paint/decal instructions.

The box top artwork, a photo of a built up model, will not do their sales any good whereas the computer generated diagram of the same tank on the box side looks quite good and in my opinion would have been better off on the top.

Recommended with some reservations.

Thanks to J.B. Wholesalers for the sample www.jbwholesalers.com.au

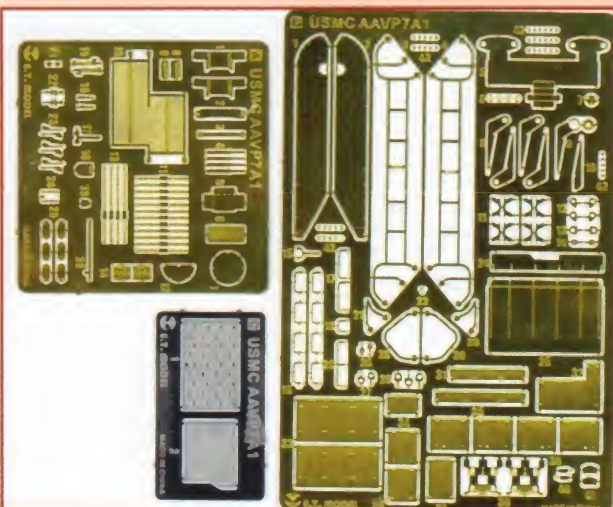
Glen Porter



224, 224 100, 100

3	4	5	6	7
+	314	+	323	
+	314	+	323	

07201 07202 07291 07292
1/72 Scale Tiger



E.T. MODEL

1:72 USMC AAVP7A1 • KIT NO E72-001

E.T. Model is a relatively new Chinese manufacturer with a small range of photo-etched sets. This set, aimed at Dragon's AAVP7A1 kit (7233) is very good and includes more parts than their T-34 set (reviewed last month), spread over two brass frets and a small steel fret containing mesh. The mesh is incredibly fine and E.T. has done a superb job here. Again the parts are all thinner than many other etched sets and care will be needed when handling them.

As with the T-34 set, I'm very impressed with this and I hope they continue to release more like it.

Highly recommended.

Alex Clark

SDV MODELS

1:87 SCALE

- T-72M1 MEDIUM TANK,
- T-55M TANK,
- MT-LB TRANSPORTER & D-44 85MM CANNON,
- WW II T38 PRAGA AUSF. C.

Aimed more at the wargamer than the scale modeller, these simple 1:87 scale SDV kits hail from the Czech Republic. 1:87 scale is HO railway scale, and the only other kits I know of are from ROCO Minitanks, which are packaged close enough to ready made.

With around 50 parts per kit, and in most cases just a central sprue like the old Airfix kits making the parts subject to increase breakage whilst in transit, they are at least in plastic bags so the parts don't get lost. Tracks are moulded in one piece with only the outside drive and idler wheels to add plus outer road wheels if they are doubled up. There is a lot of flash, and ejection marks abound. Overall the moulding is a bit rough.

Detail is pretty good with separate tools but all hatches are closed. However, some kits have useful extras. These include the T-55M that comes with a dozer blade and photo-etched side skirts, while the MT-LB and 85 mm gun comes with a clear wind screen, something even most 1:72 scale kits are not blessed with.

Decals look to be somewhat generic. In the case of the Praga they are a heap of numbers in various colours with some German crosses. For the modern armour, markings from all of the Eastern Bloc countries that used them, and again generic numbers.

Instructions are a bit rough though probably okay with both build diagrams and parts plan looking like they are hand drawn, history in two languages, neither of which is English. The only colour guide is the box art.

I confess that this is not really my scale but if 1:87 is your thing, you could do a lot worse than these. Recommended for 1:87 scale fans.

Thanks to SDV Models for the samples,
www.sdvmodel.cz

Glen Porter

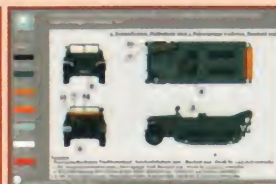
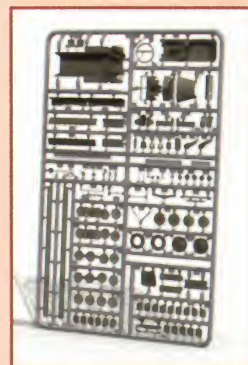


FORTHCOMING RELEASE

MK 72'S FIRST INJECTION MOULDED MODEL 1:72 SCALE SD.KFZ 10

MPK Modelbau of Switzerland is about to launch their first 1:72 scale model in May this year. The subject is the Sd.Kfz. 10 Demag. There will be two different kits, European and African, featuring the same plastic in both but different decals. I am told that they will have two lengths of hard plastic track, done in such a way that they can be wrapped around the suspension. There will be an in-box review in due course. Thanks to MK 72 for the information and images
www.mpk-modelbau.ch

Glen Porter



HAULER NEWS



Accessories 1/35

- HLU35035021 Opel Olympia saloon
- HLU35035022 Opel Olympia Staff cabrio
- HLU35035023 M2 Browning
- HLU35035024 Armored jeep

Accessories 1/48

- HLX48298 HMMWV M1038 cargo
- HLF48010 Public stone

adhbooks.com

www.adhbooks.com



Pacific Coast Models, Inc.

1:24 GERMAN Pz. Kpfw. II Ausf. F (Deutsches Afrikakorps)

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Figures - A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...



TRUMPETER

1:35 SCALE MODERN US MARINE M252 TEAM ITEM NO-00423

It is good to see that Trumpeter is releasing subjects relating to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Trumpeter's 1:35 scale Modern US Marine M252 Team provides nine sprues of parts to build four Marines in poses to man a M252 Mortar, which is also included in the set. There are both wooden and metal ammo cases, quite a few mortar rounds and round canisters, a good range of pouches and equipment to place on the Marines. The box also contains a clear sprue of goggles and a set of four M16A4s with a range of attachments and sites included.

Finally, there is a decal sheet for those who like the challenge applying the Marine Desert Digital pattern to the uniforms. I think I will paint mine!

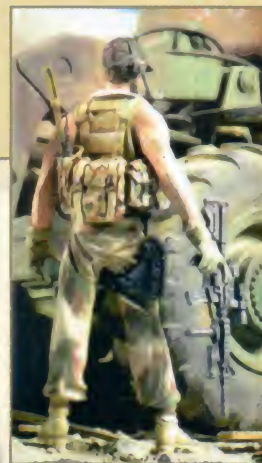
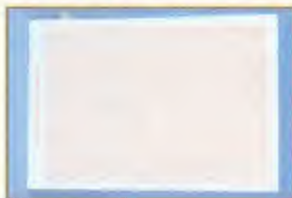
Detail on the Marines is nice, although there are some seam lines to clean up - nothing too major though. The Molle vests should look great once geared up with all the other bits you can add on.

Trumpeter has delivered a very nice set, with plenty of options to create a nice little diorama or vignette.

Highly Recommended

Thanks to JB Wholesales for review sample,
www.jbwholesalers.com.au

Andrew Judson



MIG PRODUCTIONS

1:35 SCALE

U.S. SPECIAL FORCES (AFGHANISTAN, IRAQ)

- ITEM NO. MP 35-313

U.S. INFANTRYMAN (IRAQI FREEDOM NO. 2)

- ITEM NO. MP 35-314

Mig Productions has re-released two modern 1:35 scale figures from the excellent Think-One-Eighty Studios catalogue, both sculpted by Jeff Meckley. The first is entitled "U.S. Special Forces (Afghanistan, Iraq)". He is made up from nine parts in pale yellowish green resin plus a short spool of copper wire. The body, legs and arms are cast as a single piece, with the gloved hands supplied as separate parts. The head is cast with the typical baseball-style hat and a partial headset, which is supplemented with a further resin part. The figure is holding an M16A4, beautifully cast in a single piece of resin. This figure is dressed informally in camouflage pants and a singlet, with a scarf draped around the neck. Apart from anything else, this is a convenient demarcation for painting the head! Packs and straps are cast onto the main torso.

The copper wire may be used to run from the headset to the backpack radio. Some of this wire should be coiled for maximum effect.

The second figure is labelled "U.S. Infantryman (Iraqi Freedom No. 2)". This one is made up from 14 resin parts, although eight of these are packs and water bottles. The torso and legs are cast as a single piece, with arms, head and helmet all separate. A large backpack is cast to the torso part. The weapon of choice is once again an M16A4.

Casting of the two figures is perfect, with no imperfections visible on my samples. No instructions are provided, but there is a nice big photograph of the figure, front and rear, included in the packaging. This will help with assembly and painting. Both figures are in poses that might be described as heroic - casual but clearly ready to spring into action with their wide gait and steady stance. This pose will be versatile for many vignette or diorama scenes, whether with a vehicle or as standalone figures.

Highly Recommended

Mig Productions products are available online from their website www.migproductions.com

Brett Green



AC MODELS

90MM SCALE BRITISH / COMMONWEALTH SNIPER 1916

ITEM NO. ACM9006

AC Models' latest is a departure from their recent 1:10 scale busts. This time we have a full figure of a British / Commonwealth Sniper 1916 presented in 90mm scale.

The kit is supplied in nine resin parts including a nice base, plus material for straps etc.

Casting quality is up to AC Models' high standards. The main body casting is especially impressive, with a great deal of detail already cast in place.

The pose is relaxed and natural, while the facial features are as craggy as one would expect in the harsh environment of the Western Front of 1916.

Highly Recommended.

Andrew Judson



Thanks to AC Models for the samples.

Available online from Colorado Miniatures www.coloradominiatures.com



AC MODELS

1:10 SCALE AUSTRALIAN INFANTRY NEW GUINEA "KOKODA"

ITEM NO. ACM10B12

Here is another bust from this very active manufacturer of an Aussie Digger in Kokoda, wearing very worn out fatigues and his trusty slouch hat turned bush hat, having a break enjoying one of the very few luxuries, a "durry" or cigarette.

In the box are four grey resin parts being the base, torso, arm and hat plus a short length of wire to make the cigarette. The sculpting and casting is of a high standard, and the pose sets the scene, "ahhhh I needed that", before he has to continue on his dangerous journey.

This is a very nice bust and I only look forward to future works from AC. Highly recommended.

Andrew Judson





Letters

WRITE TO: MMI Letters, ADH Publishing, Doolittle Mill, Doolittle Lane, Totternhoe, Bedfordshire, LU6 1QX, UK
Tel: 01525 222573 Fax: 01525 222574 Email: editor@modelmilitary.com
The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher.
Letters may be edited for publication.



SUGGESTIONS FOR 1:48

This is Phil Young. I build military models in 1:48 scale and I visit Missing-Lynx and Track48 websites a bit. I was reading Luke's 1:48 scale column in issue 46 where he was asking what the readers want. I thought I might take a moment out of a busy day and give you some thoughts. First off - I really enjoy your 1:48 section. I like the interviews you have been doing and think they are quite interesting. The 1:48 scale section is really the only reason I buy the magazine although the

models are pretty good too. I think it is really hard to report out on new products in 1:48 because there are very limited new releases. So product reviews I would keep to what's available and only include releases that are actually available.

Luke's column seems to be a good place to create a "buzz" for 1:48 military scale. One thought I had (and I think you already did this) is place some pictures of completed (or in progress) models that are around the net. I go to a lot of different forums and am surprised to see 1/48 models popping up that we don't see on Missing-Lynx or Track48. Maybe each month you can publish some snapshots of these models to show that there are many people that build in the scale and more is completed than people think.

Also, there are several "closet modelers" in 1:48 and people are very active on forums, but they never put pictures up of their work. Marlowe, Bruce Culver, etc. Maybe in Bruce's case a little expose with pictures of his stash and things he has completed, with a little bio.

I personally would like to

see some more of the Japanese modelers and maybe bridge some of that gap. Max Wang, Kaz, etc. Would love to see an interview with Kaz who has created 3 of the best scenes in 1:48 I have ever seen - The Monster has landed. On the offensive, and his latest with the German Halftrack and the M-8. He really isn't a 1:48 scale modeler, but I love what he has done especially the "On the Offensive" one.

It would also be great to read an interview with Oliver (from Gaso. Line) or Ken Swanson (Kengi); and to see Oliver's operation - how does he build masters, how he casts, etc. I personally am very interested in what manufactures have to do to produce their models. I have never seen an article that explains how a model is developed (even say at Tamiya's level) to production. I think readers would eat that up. Maybe that's not for your section, but for the mag in general.

I would also love to see anything on Manel Arin - works in progress, how long it takes him to sculpt new figures, etc. That would be interesting to me. Maybe some conversations with some figure producers about getting into 1:48 would be good too. I talked to New World Miniatures and he said it would cost about \$600 to have a new figure sculpted.

Too steep for me! Maybe a conversation with Prieser about expanding a bit in 1:48, or use an expose about how they produce figures to get them to think about expanding into 1:48 scale. ICM would be the same thing. I struggle a lot with the available figures in 1/48 scale - if each company just made one of their sets in 1/48 I would be happy. Perhaps the market is just not there, but maybe ask some manufacturers why they don't release in 1/48 scale.

I think your "rumours" section is useful. Maybe some "polls" on what 1:48 modelers want. We did a poll on Track48 in fall of 2008. Of the 55 items - I count about 12 to 13 items that are available now, or are coming soon. Now have to be careful because I think some may have been available already in resin, but I think that should count. It is kind of interesting that we are getting some items we want. Might be a neat thing to discuss. Sorry if this is long winded. Just trying to help.

Phillip Young
Illinois USA

Ed Says: Hi Phillip,

Thank you for your thoughts. I am pleased to report that a number of these suggestions have already been considered and will be appearing in Luke's column in the future (and some have already appeared in the past).

Both Luke and myself are very enthusiastic about 1:48 scale, and it is great to hear that you clearly share this passion.

KILLING ROMMEL

Good Afternoon, Brett!

Just received the latest MMI and saw the continuing interest in the LRDG. I just finished a great book about the LRDG titled "Killing Rommel" by Steven Pressfield. A full description may be found at Amazon UK.

The book appears to be factual, but even if it isn't, it is a wonderful read. Credit long overdue for this heroic and under-reported unit. I am no expert, but I have a Tamiya LRDG Command Car in my stash! Take care, and Cheers to you for your wonderful magazine!

Bill Bell
UK



CAMOUFLAGE EXCEPTIONS

I've been reading with great interest the various articles about vehicle camouflage. I find the stories both interesting and informative. But I would like to caution the readers to a fact of life. What higher headquarters and others say should be done and what is done is sometimes quite different. As a mechanized infantry platoon leader in the US Army during the 1980s, we were to paint our vehicles in the standard four color pattern developed by the Department of the Army. Even when the entire Battalion's vehicles were painted by a special painting team, no two vehicles were exactly alike. Crews were able to easily spot their own vehicle from the others in no time. The variations in the paint jobs were even more dramatic when crews were allowed to paint their own vehicles.

In theory every vehicle was painted in the standard pattern but in practice every vehicle had its own personality. As platoon leader I was always able to recognize my own vehicles from those of other platoons or companies. Furthermore, there were times when the pattern went completely out the window. For almost two months by battalion commander's track was painted solid flat black with tan Unit markings and the words "Silver Fox" in two inch letters painted on the side under the drivers hatch!

I guess in short, modellers need to remember that soldiers will always find a way to express themselves regardless of what the army directives say. Modellers should do the same.

PS. After not building figures for over 20 years I share your intimidation when it comes to figure painting. This will be my hardest obstacle to overcome. Its nice to find out I'm not alone.

Tobias Gibson
Chicago, Illinois
USA

Ed Says: Hi Tobias, Thanks for these first-hand accounts. The exceptions can certainly be more interesting than the rules!



Ed Says: Hi Bill,

Thanks for the tip about the new book. I see that the Tamiya LRDG seems to be back in some hobby shops and at online retailers at the time of writing too.

CUSTOM DECAL PRINTING IN THE UK

With reference to Mr Si Tomlinson's letter in MMI Issue 48, I would recommend a company in the UK called Precision Labels. They specialise in decals for model railways, but they will also do custom printing to any design. I have had decals printed by them on two occasions and I was very pleased with them. There is no minimum order, so they will be able to print a single A5 sheet if required. Their web site address is www.precisionlabels.co.uk

Yours sincerely,
Tom Murphy
UK

SWANN-MORTON HOBBY KNIVES

One thing I learned many years ago as an apprentice is that not all tools are equal. A quality tool may cost a bit more but my life's experience has taught me that this is a worthwhile investment in the long run. Cutting tools are no exception, and these releases from Swann-



Morton in the UK, who are known for quality surgical instruments, are high quality cutting tools in the form of a variety of blade handles and scalpels. The handles, with the exception of the Trimway disposable, are designed to take the standard scalpel-type blades modellers and those in the medical profession (amongst others) would be used too. They are all made from high quality alloys again with the exception of the disposable Trimway, which is plastic and comes in a Packet of three.

The ACM No 1 is similar to the old Exacto type handles and is supplied with five of the very useful No.11 Blades. The knurled grips are placed so that the forefinger and the thumb are both engaged on a non-slip surface unlike most others of similar design. It comes with a clear plastic safety cap. Next is the No.3 Scalpel type handle that is supplied with five No.10a blades. I find these safer to use than No.11s for general modelling trimming. The No.3 handle also has a 5.5 cm rule on the left side and is made from stainless steel.

My favourite from this batch of samples is Retractableway, which offers a retractable housing that takes standard scalpel type blades like the No.3. This is a great idea as I am forever stabbing myself with the blades left on my cluttered work surface. This is also supplied with No.10a Blades. I will be buying a few of these to replace my older handles.

Lastly are the disposable the Trimaway Blades, which are designed for light trimming and not heavy cutting - a lesson this reviewer learnt personally the hard way in a professional environment many years ago. They come in packets of three and have a plastic handle No.1 Scalpel handle. The blades can be changed like the No.3 handle

In summary, these are all excellent tools and the No.1, No.3 and Retractableway should last a modelling lifetime. I heartily recommend these having been using the same Swann-Morton Scalpel handle (3 & 4) for the last twenty-eight years. I foresee many years of similar usage from these handles. Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Swann-Morton for the samples www.craftknives.com

Al Bowie

TRUMPETER

1:35M16A2 SET • ITEM NO. 00502

Trumpeter has really come to the party when it comes to weapon sets over the years covering from WWII to current time, where this set comes in. This set has six well-detailed M16A2 Rifles with picatinny rails on the front stock, 18 spare magazines, and a photo-etched fret of slings. This particular version of this rifle is a fairly standard weapon and is pretty much a general issue, though in the field soldiers do tend to hop them up a little. This is just one of many sets of a variant of this rifle that Trumpeter has done, and it is a welcome one.

Keep 'em coming I say! Highly Recommended.

Thanks to JB Wholesales for review item www.jbwholesalers.com.au

Andrew Judson



RMG RESIN MODELS

76MM M1A2 GUN BARREL FOR 1:35 M4A1, 2 & 3 LATE MODEL SHERMANS ITEM NO. RM 040

Just when everyone is releasing barrels in turned metal, along comes RMG with a resin one. This is a complete outer mantlet and M1A2 Gun Tube for a 76mm armed Sherman with T23 turret. These were fitted to the M4A3 76, M4A2 76 and the M4A1 76mm armed Shermans of late WWII. The gun may also be seen fitted to the M18 Hellcat tank destroyer, although not with the supplied mantlet..

The set is cast in 5 parts with one being the main tube with the first stage of the muzzle brake attached. This is cast in a very light grey resin and my example had a very slight bend to the left. The resin attachment point is about 4cm long and will leave a scar when removed from the tube, which really defeats the purpose of one-piece barrels.

The outer half of the muzzle brake is well moulded with no seams. The mantlet is a one-piece mould with two attachment clips being supplied separately. The integral lifting rings are delicately moulded and my example was broken in the packaging. No cast numbers or markings have been depicted.

This set might be suitable for upgrading the old Italeri 76 mm armed Shermans, long superseded by the DML offerings, but I could not recommend it over the turned metal examples such as Armourscale's, which is uncannily similarity in parts breakdown. Even the instructions have very similar diagrams; only the Armourscale parts are far superior in quality and require no cleanup. The DML kit parts from their latest 76mm armed Shermans are also far superior to this update set which is essentially retro-grade, not an upgrade.

Not Recommended.

Thanks to RMG Resin products for the sample <http://rmgresinmodels.com>

Al Bowie



NEO MODELS

VARIOUS 1:35 UPGRADE SETS

Neo Models from Korea was, for me, the best surprise to come out of 2009. This Korean company has a huge catalogue and their resin sets are just awesome. The casting is top quality, as is the detail. Even the small details are there and besides the high quality, their sets are very original.

The sets are not only made up from resin parts. Don't be surprised if you find photo-etched frets, metal chain or cable, a camouflage net...

The instructions are clear and in colour.

These sets will definitely enhance the final look of any model. In fact they will be real showstoppers!

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Neo Models for the samples www.neograde.net

Jose Brito





MININATUR LANDSCAPE AND FOLIAGE SETS NO SCALE, VARIOUS SETS

Ever since I started modelling back in 1980 at five years old, I can remember I always built dioramas. Back in those days, the realism was achieved using real earth, water, grass and all kind of stuff I could dig up in my parent's backyard! The main problem was that a few days later all my dioramas were invaded by insects!

Today times are different. With companies like MiniNatur from Germany, the word "reality" gets a new meaning. MiniNatur boasts a huge range of diorama products and all of them are just great. They are original, diversified and top quality.

Their sets are packed in transparent plastic boxes and clear and concise instructions are provided. The sets can be used in a vast number of situations. They can be used to create a rural landscape, a backyard garden, trees and even to camouflage a tank. Highly Recommended.

Thanks to MiniNatur for the samples www.mininatur.de

Jose Brito



LIFECOLOR

ACRYLIC PAINTS - WWII US ARMY UNIFORMS

SET 1: COMBAT AND FATIGUE CLOTHING, CLASS A UNIFORMS

SET 2: COMBAT GEAR

Lifecolor has extended their range of specialised acrylic paints with two sets of six colours for WWII US Army uniforms.

The first of these sets is for the uniforms themselves. Six bottles of acrylic paints provide two shades of Olive Drab and Herringbone Twill Dark Shade for combat dress, plus Pink and Chocolate for US WWII Dress Uniforms.

Set 2 offers four alternate shades of Olive Drab, plus a reddish brown (Russet Brown) and Herringbone Twill Light shade for webbing, packs, straps, equipment and other infantry gear. A number of these tones are also relevant for WWI and Post-War figures.

Each set of six bottles is snugly packed into a cardboard box with a top-opening flap. A very brief description of the applicability of the colours is listed on the back of the box. The bottles themselves are plastic with a wide screw cap.

Recommended.

Thanks to The Airbrush Company for the samples www.airbrushes.com

Brett Green



ZVEZDA

1:35 GERMAN R-12 HEAVY MOTORCYCLE WITH RIDER AND OFFICER ITEM NO. 3632

Zvezda's 1:35 scale Renaissance continues with their newest release, "German R-12 Heavy Motorcycle With Rider and Officer".

Although it is not labelled as such on the box, this is of course the iconic BMW R-12 750cc motorcycle. The bike itself comprises 66 grey plastic parts. These are impressively detailed and delicately moulded. There is no photo-etch, so even the wheel spokes are moulded in plastic, but they are still fairly fine and will undoubtedly be much easier to assemble for photo-etch-o-phobes (of whom there are many).

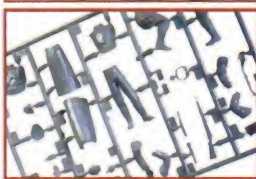
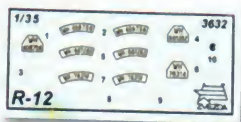
The engine, handlebars and frame are all nicely done. The wheels and mudguards are presented in two parts each. Saddlebags are also provided. Zvezda has been too coy to supply BMW logos for the sides of the petrol tank, but the tiny raised letters "BMW" have slipped past the Trademark lawyers to appear on Part 27. Markings are supplied for three Wehrmacht machines on a small, well printed decal sheet.

Two figures complete the set – a rider and a standing Officer in a greatcoat. These add another 29 plastic parts. Although the Officer's waistline appears alarmingly anorexic on the sprue, this is only to accommodate the thickness of the plastic greatcoat where it joins his torso. A very nice touch is the inclusion of an alternative set of handlebars with the rider's hand moulded onto the throttle. He also gets a separate set of goggles for his helmet.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to J.B. Wholesalers for the sample www.jbwwholesalers.com.au

Brett Green



JADAR PRINTED PRODUCTS

35501 AND 72501 – ROAD SIGNS ARABIC, 11 PIECES

72102 – GERMAN CARDBOARD BOXES, POISON

48204 AND 35204 – US ARMY FIELD RATIONS K, 12 PIECES

35104 – GERMAN CARDBOARD BOXES GRANATS, 12 PIECES

FLORA – OAK LEAF 1:48 SCALE

FLORA – PALM LEAVES 1:48

FLORA – FERN 1:35 SCALE

Jadar Hobby from Poland has an expanding range of paper products for a variety of eras and applications.

First under the microscope is their Arabic Road Signs. These are available in either 1:72 or 1:35 scale. Eleven warning signs are provided in each set. They are crisply printed on good quality, bright paper. The individual signs are held in place with only thin strips of paper, so it will be easy to remove them for immediate use. You will be able to employ these versatile signs on vehicles or at checkpoints in any modern scene in the Middle East or Afghanistan. I really do like these! Next up are four sets of boxes for US and German WWII. We have seen similar printed paper boxes before, but three of these are laser cut, making it much easier to remove the boxes from their backing sheet. The boxes are available in a range of scales.

Finally, Jadar's "FLORA" range offers a wide variety of different foliage and leaves in 1:35, 1:48 and 1:72 scales. In reality, the scale is nominal as the foliage might be large or small. Each section of foliage is laser cut, once again making for fast removal and preparation. I would recommend spraying the foliage your desired shades before removing the individual pieces from the backing sheet. These are all very useful and high quality products that will have a big impact on your dioramas and vignettes.

All Recommended.

Thanks to Jadar Hobby for the samples www.jadar.com.pl

Brett Green



MY TRAVELS ON THE WEB

I have been doing the rounds of the online Forums of late to find something (if anything) to inspire me to build. Over the last few months I have noticed a very dark tone to some of the postings in response to quite honest requests for help. Some of the responses have been flippant while others have been downright rude. I find it worrying that supposedly mature people can sometimes act like schoolyard bullies. On one forum of late, a gentlemen wanted to show his latest work and from the pictures the

build looked to be coming along nicely. One of the respondents noted the piece looked very similar to another he had seen. For one reason or another the discussion turned into a debate on, of all things, the moral correctness of copying another modeller's work, not so much in style but in layout. I found the whole discussion to be very amusing myself as I, for one, copy other peoples' models all the time. In fact, other peoples' models are my main source of inspiration. I remember back to the very inspirational dioramas done by Shep Paine in the 1970s, and it is my aim one day to copy his "Sherman going through the hedge groves" diorama in 1:48 scale. Not only would it make a great scene, I would have a piece in my own collection to remind me of a model I have long admired. I know of only one instance when one of my models has been copied (right down to the placement of foliage) and, at the time, I was flattered that someone would have gone to the trouble to imitate my style. Copying a style or layout is not a bad thing and in some instances I have seen the germ of an idea applied from one diorama incorporated in another and improved upon.

I have spoken before about the importance of formulating your own "style" when completing your latest masterpiece. It should be noted however that your "style" will and should be dynamic, with new influences or indeed modifying others styles.

1:48 SCALE DRAWING SUPER PERSHING DRAWINGS

Due to space and layout considerations we have moved George Bradford's 1:48 scale drawing this month to another page in the magazine but, rest assured, the drawings are still in 1:48 scale. The Super Pershing would be a fairly easy conversion starting with the Tamiya kit as a base and adding WWII Production tracks. Remember to add the slight downward sweep to the suspension. The turret will be the most difficult aspect to this conversion but with the aid of this drawing the loaders hatch can be borrowed from the hobby boss range of Sherman Kits. I think this would be a most impressive project when complete.

Until next time *Luke Pitt*

Model Military International 1:48 Scale Q & A - Joaquin Gazquez

Joaquin Gazquez is a surveyor and from the south of Spain. He is one of those guys who focuses on his finishes and uses the model as a canvas for improving his painting skills (not that they need improving in my opinion). The level of his painting skill is right up there. I particularly like the small painting details he applies. As I have stated before in this column it is important to draw inspiration from a finish you like and incorporate any of the ideas you see in your future builds.

THE INTERVIEW

Luke: Hi Joaquin. Good to have you with us. What would you consider to be your best 1:48 scale model and why?

Joaquin: *Hi Luke, I thank to you for including me in your column. For me, my best 1/48 model would be my Tamiya Jeep. With my modelling, I try to correct and enhance the kit but tend not to go overboard. For me, the model is merely a canvas for my painting and I try to include as many techniques as possible. The Jeep build would probably best illustrate where I am today.*

Luke: What is the most influential 1:48 scale model you have seen in print and why?

Joaquin: *This question is a very difficult Luke! I read a lot of articles in magazines and I draw positive aspects from almost all of them. I like practically all of Luciano Rodriguez's articles but if pressed, I would say Sven Frisch 1/48 Stug is probably the best 1:48 scale military model I have seen thus far.*

Luke: If you had to pick one kit that should be made in 1:48 scale, what would that be?

Joaquin: *I think there are a lot of models still to do. The Panzer I, Panzer II and Half Tracks would all be good if I had to choose one. However, a US M3 Half Track would be on top of my list.*

Luke: I too would love a US halftrack and I know the Kengi kit could be used as a base or, for the brave among us, the old Monogram "Snap Tight" kit. I must say that I am always inspired by your builds and know a lot of others are too. Thanks for your time Joaquin. Keep up the good work.

Joaquin: *Thanks Luke. You humble me. Good luck with the column.*



D-TOYS

1:48 SCALE US M978 2500 GAL FUEL TANKER 8X8 • ITEM NO. DT48-003

The Oshkosh HEMTT (Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck) M978 A4 is a tanker version of this US heavy truck. I have long admired the lines of this vehicle. The Cab design in particular, is most pleasing to my eye.

D-toys is a fairly new manufacturer operating out of Korea which produces two other updates in 1:48 scale. This HEMTT model is made up of 113 very clearly cast cream resin parts with one small fret of photo etch. A basic but well laid out set of instructions spread out over four pages. The castings have fairly large pour gates but the detail on the castings themselves is first rate. The wheels and tyres are very well done with clearly defined tread and sidewall detail in evidence. The chassis forms the base of the vehicle and the entire collection of resin parts are added to it. The tanker unit itself has been cast in a two-part mould and as a result, a prominent mould seam was in evidence on my sample, but due to its location was very easy to clean up. The instructions include all the cutting profiles for the front and side windows. The model scales out very well to all the published data on this type and is very well done. At first glance this kit seems to be very expensive but, given the fact it is hand made, very accurate and is probably the best "out of the box" model of this type available in any scale available today. It gets my recommendation.

The only known source for this product at the moment is Lucky Model and I am very grateful for them in the supply of this review sample. Lucky Model may be contacted via their website www.luckymodel.com



D-TOYS

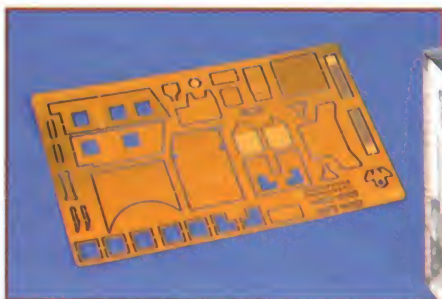
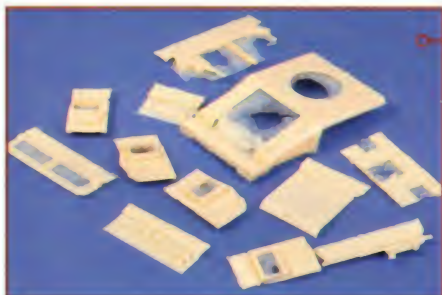
1:48 SCALE US HUMVEE M1151 CONVERSION SET FOR THE TAMIYA KIT • ITEM NO. DT48-002

With the release of Tamiya's 1:48 scale Humvee kit, it was only natural for an aftermarket producer to produce a more up-to-date conversion for this type. The Tamiya kit is fine for the Desert Storm version, but the type has been upgraded with add-on armour to meet the demands it now faces in Afghanistan and Iraq.

This new update set by D-Toys includes many of the upgrades included in the so-called Armour Survivability Kit or ASK as it is otherwise known. The upgrade includes 59 very well cast resin pieces which include the armoured radiator cover, side armour, cab roof and doors, windshield and a new dash board. The set includes a new set of tyres and rims (which may be purchased separately (item code DT48-001) and incorporates the aggressive tread pattern on the tyre itself and a "Goodyear" logo on the sidewall. The tyres are very well done and include a very subtle bulge where tyre meets the road. No air bubbles were present on my example and the casting is very well done. The castings have fairly large "pour gates" so careful cutting when removing the pieces will be needed here. A fairly large photo-etched fret is included containing such items as the armour surrounds for the weapons station, armoured glass surrounds and various add on additions to the interior and bodywork. The instructions are fairly basic but are well drawn and give a good indication where everything should be placed. I must say, I was impressed when reviewing this update. It

ticks all the right boxes and is well produced. It may also be used as a basis for a number of other conversions currently seem in Iraq at the moment and comes highly recommended.

Thanks to Lucky Model for the sample www.luckymodel.com



New Products

ALPINE

It has been a long time since I hinted that a major figure company would release a set of figures in 1:48 scale. I can now confirm that company is Alpine and, the figures will be a set of German Tankers sculptured by none other than Mike Good. Anyone familiar with Mike's work will realize these will be worth the wait. The figures will be limited to 300 sets only and once they are gone they will be gone for good. I strongly suggest you purchase a set of these when released as these may become collector's items in quick time.

KENGI

Ken has been in contact with me lately and he confirms he has a number of projects on the boil. I am not at liberty to discuss the details but it is German and will come in two pieces that complement each other. It looks like we will get a lot of bang for our buck with this release!

RED ZEBRA LIMITED



This is a new startup company run by Paul Wadel. His first release will be a set of 1:48 scale camels and from the look of them, they will be very nice indeed. I admire Paul as he is an average Joe like most of us but he is willing to make masters and market them himself. His plans for the future include all types of farm animals he can be contacted on [HYPERLINK "mailto:redzebra100@tiscali.co.uk"](mailto:HYPERLINKmailto:redzebra100@tiscali.co.uk) redzebra100@tiscali.co.uk

Rumours

I have received word of a new manufacturer soon to emerge that will produce wheeled vehicles in resin. Their first releases will be a CMP 15cwt truck and a Fordson WOT2 15 cwt truck. The master builder behind these is one of the best in the business and they should be well worth the wait. Expect an announcement in the next few months, with the first models available in September of this year.

A Letter from a 1:48 scale aficionado

Hi Brett, I couldn't resist the invitation from Luke Pitt late last year to contribute to a wish list of 1:48th scale subjects. My interest in 1:48 scale is in crossover modelling and in truth through the likes of Accurate Armour and Matador Models (as well as the likes of Tamiya and Hasegawa) there is a reasonable supply of good stuff. I would make a plea for two things, a Cleveland Cletrac fully loaded with a compressor, generator etc, and a basic 15cwt British and Commonwealth soft skin truck of a type that was used around the world by all the Allies including their Air Forces. Such a model could then be modified with after-market resin, brass or scratch built add-ons (like the Tamiya "Jimmy" can be) to produce a range of tankers, communications trucks, mobile workshops etc.

John Levesley
Friends of the New Forest Airfields
Bransgore UK



Book Reviews

THE US ARMY JEEP AT WAR

CONCORD ARMOR AT WAR SERIES 7058

ISBN 962-361-110-2

Concord is the publishing arm of DML, offering affordable, well printed photo reference on a variety of military subjects in a number of areas. This is the latest release in the popular Armor at War Series by the well-known Military author Steve Zaloga and covers the ubiquitous US Army Jeep during WWII.

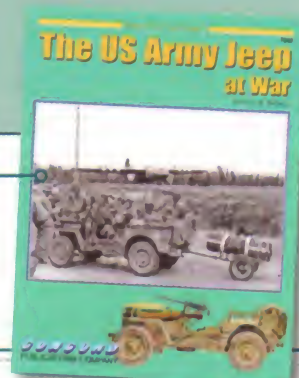
It follows the usual Concord format and is presented in portrait A4 format with 72 pages of mainly black and white photos of the wartime Jeep in US service. The centre of the book has eight pages of excellent colour profiles. A two page introduction precedes the photo collection. The photos have been reproduced clearly and I have to say the majority of photos are new to this reviewer. They cover US Jeeps from their (US) baptism of fire in North Africa through to the end of the war in Pacific. In the main it covers the North West Europe Campaign. Typically, there are three photos with one larger image on each page.

The two page introduction contains a wealth of useful information and exposes the myths and errors surrounding the Jeep name, something I would recommend to Chryslers lawyers and the US Patent Office!

This is another excellent and affordable release from Concord and a terrific collection of wartime photographs of US jeeps. This title will appeal to Allied modellers and jeep enthusiasts alike. As such this title is highly recommended.

Thanks to Casemate UK for the sample www.casematepublishing.co.uk

Al Bowie



KAGERO TOPCOLORS NO. 12

EASTERN FRONT PT.1

ISBN: 978-83-61220-48

This is the first of Kagero's TOPCOLOR series I have personally seen and it is a concept that I applaud. The series is essential a collection of subject-related decals presented on two A5 Sheets with A4 landscape colour plates to show marking placements.

The subject matter for No 12 is the Eastern Front and in particular the USSR and its allies, although the obligatory German captured example is also included. The book has decals in 1:35 scale for 46 different vehicles of the following types:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| • IS-2 | 5 options in Polish 1st Army markings |
| • IS-122 | 3 options in Polish 1st Army markings |
| • ISU-152 | 4 options in Polish & Russian markings |
| • Studebaker truck | 5 options in Polish & Russian markings |
| • SU-122 | 3 Options in Russian markings |
| • SU-76 | 8 options in Polish & Russian markings |
| • SU-85 | 8 options in Polish, Czech, German & Russian markings |
| • T-34 85 | 10 options in Polish & Russian markings |

The decals appear well printed with little carrier film and are in register. They cover an interesting array of subjects, most of which include markings with slogans and numerals. A lot of the subjects are covered in whitewash and the information page gives some interesting notes regarding this and general Soviet schemes.

This is a great collection of markings for Eastern Front Soviet vehicles and offers a great source for typical Soviet numbers and slogans. As such it should appeal to modellers of Soviet armour. I look forward to more subjects from this manufacturer.

Recommended.

Thanks to Casemate UK for the sample www.casematepublishing.co.uk

Al Bowie

THE STALIN AND MOLOTOV LINES



THE STALIN AND MOLOTOV LINES

THE STALIN AND MOLOTOV LINES

SOVIET WESTERN DEFENCES 1928-41 OSPREY FORTRESS NO 77

ISBN: 978-1-84603-192-2

Osprey Publishing's Fortress range has been running for some while. This book is number 77 in a long list of titles covering ancient, Middle Ages and even present day fortifications and fortresses. This is the first that I have had the time to examine in detail.

Like most Osprey titles, it follows a well established pattern of providing a good historical text supported by photos and Colour Diagrams. This title follows the pattern and is dedicated to the Soviets major fortifications lines built in the USSR (The Stalin Line) from 1928 stretching some 2000km and the later ones built in Poland (The Molotov Line).

The book is divided into Chapters covering:

- Design and Development
- The Principles of Defence
- A Tour of the Defences
- Living Sites
- Operational History
- Aftermath
- The Sites Today
- Bibliography and Appendix

The text is concise but informative and well supported by diagrams and photos showing period and present day site photos. I knew little about these defences and found this a great read and one that was always worth reading a few pages more.

This is a great book for students of warfare, modellers, historians and general military archaeologists. It has certainly broadened my military horizons and will not be the last title in this range that I read.

Highly Recommended

Thanks to Osprey Publishing for the sample www.ospreypublishing.com

Al Bowie



ARMORED THUNDERBOLT

THE U.S. ARMY SHERMAN IN WORLD WAR II

BY STEVEN ZALOGA • STACKPOLE BOOKS • ISBN: 978-0-8117-0424-3

The M4 Sherman tank was the unquestionable backbone of the U.S. Army in the Second World War, but its reputation by the end of the conflict was mixed. The Sherman was vulnerable to many German tanks, anti-tank guns and rockets. Early variants were prone to catching fire when hit, and were also struggling to knock out their heavier Axis adversaries including the Tiger and Panther tanks. Despite the poor showing of the Sherman in head-to-head confrontations with the best of Germany's Panzers, U.S. forces quickly worked around this prolific tank's shortcomings to transform the M4 into an effective tactical vehicle. Thanks to America's formidable manufacturing capacity and the growing skills of its crews, the Sherman was a key factor in the Allied victory in North Africa and Europe.

Stackpole Books has released a title that deals with the history and U.S. operations of the Sherman tank from its jittery beginnings to becoming a war-winning weapon. The book contains 360 glossy pages between its hard covers.

The text is easy to read and engaging. Steve Zaloga is no stranger to this territory, and he describes the military, political and technical background in detail but never laboriously. The content is laid out logically, following with first use in North Africa, the crisis after encountering the new generation of Panzers in Normandy, operations in North Western Europe, the Pacific and beyond 1945 into the Cold War. The text concludes with a frank assessment of the Sherman from its development to the end of the Second World War. Appendices include technical drawings, Sherman production tables, plus Strength and Loss statistics.

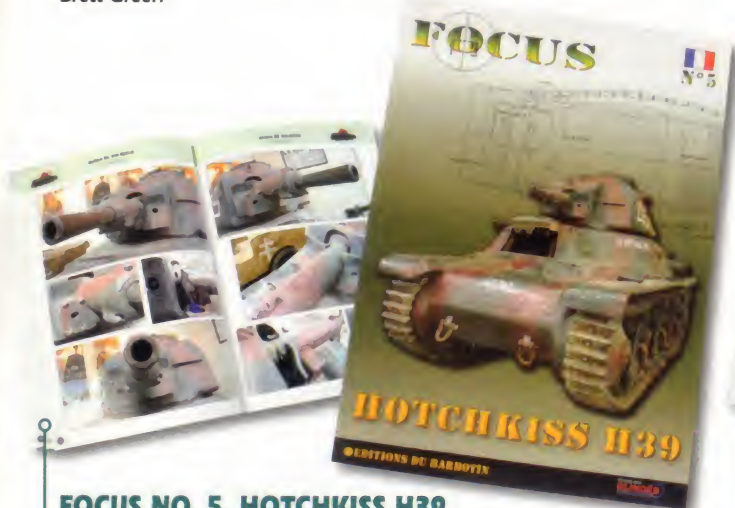
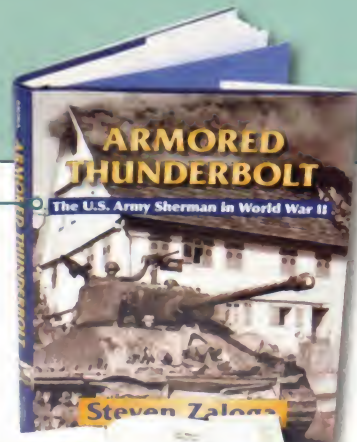
The Chapters are peppered with hundreds of contemporary black and white photos. These images are relevant and helpfully captioned.

"Armored Thunderbolt – The US Army Sherman in World War II" is a fascinating study of a legendary vehicle that might not have been the best tank of the war, but was clearly good enough.

Highly Recommended.

Thanks to Stackpole Books for the sample www.stackpolebooks.com

Brett Green



FOCUS NO. 5. HOTCHKISS H39

TEXT BY PASCAL DANJOU

PROFILES BY ERIC SCHWATZ

PUBLISHED BY EDITIONS DU BARBOTIN

Hotchkiss H39 is the fifth in Edition du Barbotin's Focus series covering important French and German tanks. The book is presented in a small format similar in size to Osprey titles, with soft covers and 50 glossy pages.

The book features bi-lingual text in two columns, with French to the left and English on the right. Caption are similarly organised.

Despite the very specific title, this book actually describes both the Hotchkiss H35 and H39 models. The first Chapter explains the development and operational history of the Hotchkiss tanks. This section includes German employment of captured Hotchkiss tanks and conversions of the chassis to self-propelled guns. The rare use of Hotchkiss tanks post-war is also covered.

The bulk of the book, from pages 20 to 45, is made up of more than 130 full-colour walkaround photos of the Hotchkiss H39 at the French "Musée des blindés de Samur", the Samur Tank Museum. The photos are well reproduced and cover most of the nooks and crannies of the display vehicle. My only complaint is that with one sole exception there are no captions after the first two pages, although each page is headed with a general description and a colour-keyed diagram of the area being displayed.

Two pages of colour profiles covering the six primary camouflage schemes will afford inspiration for modellers. A 1:35 scale four-view profile of one vehicle is provided on page 47. A reduced version at 1:72 scale is offered on page 50, along with a plan view in 1:35. The book is rounded out with a Bibliography on the inside back cover.

This is a handy and compact reference on the Hotchkiss H35 and H39. Recommended.

Focus No. 5. Hotchkiss H39 is available online from Minitracks

www.minitracks.fr

Brett Green



TRACKSTORY NO. 11 - SOMUA S35

TEXT BY PASCAL DANJOU

PROFILES BY ERIC SCHWATZ

PUBLISHED BY EDITIONS DU BARBOTIN

The Somua S35 has been described as the best tank in service during 1940. It was well protected with 40mm of armour, while its 47mm turret-mounted gun was a formidable weapon for its time. This was capable of penetrating most contemporary vehicles in service. The Somua was also faster than any German tank used in the Blitzkrieg of May and June 1940. In addition to the defence of France in 1940, the Somua was also employed in North Africa, and on both sides during the liberation of France in 1944.

"Somua S35" is the eleventh in Edition du Barbotin's Trackstory series covering important French and German tanks. The book is presented in a small format similar in size to Osprey titles, with soft covers and 62 glossy pages.

The book features bi-lingual text in two columns, with French to the left and English on the right. Caption are similarly organised.

The first 51 pages cover the genesis of the concept, development, operational history and a section on the use of the Somua in German hands. This is followed by a précis of distinctive markings.

The balance of the book, from pages 52 to 62, contains attractive and inspiring artwork covering the camouflage and markings of vehicle in French, German and even Yugoslav service. Each colour side profile is supported by a historical photograph and descriptive text. There are two profiles on each page.

This is a useful reference on the Somua S35 with ample inspiration for some colourful camouflage finishes.

Highly Recommended.

Trackstory No. 11 – Somua S35 is available online from Minitracks

www.minitracks.fr

Brett Green

Next Issue

On sale June 3rd 2010

Tractor with Teeth

Jose Brito creates another compact but action-packed vignette, this time with a Zis-30 as the centrepiece.



BMW R75

...and it is 1:35 scale! Thomas Morgan builds and details the new GreatWall BMW R75 Motorcycle & Sidecar.

On the Prowl

Jim Wechsler presents his 1:35 scale Coyote, accompanied by a Think Tank reference article.



TECH GUIDE - Cherbourg Diorama Part Three

Justo Mira concludes his series on a remarkable small-scale diorama.



FOR YOUR SAFETY

Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!



...and much more!

Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!

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- STOP PRESS -

TAMIYA NEWS FROM SHIZUOKA!

1:35 SCALE BT-7 MODEL 1935

We have just received news that Tamiya will release a 1:35 scale Soviet BT-7 Model 1935 during June.

The BT-7 was a Russian tank produced from 1935 that incorporated innovative design features from tanks developed by American engineer Walter Christie. "BT" stood for "Bystrokhodny Tank (Fast Tank)", as its coil spring Christie suspension system and powerful engine (for its day) enabled an excellent on-road top speed of 50km/h. To further enhance speed and mobility, the tracks could be removed so that the tank could manoeuvre with its road wheels only. The front wheels were steerable in this mode. Equipped with a 47mm main gun, it was one of the better-armed tanks of that period and it also had sloped frontal armour, a feature that would make its way into later tanks such as the T-34.

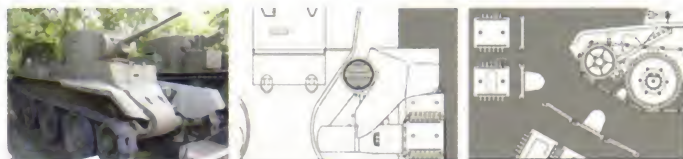
4,700 BT-7s were produced from 1935 to 1939. They first saw service during the Spanish Civil War. The BT-7 also took part in battles against Japanese forces in Mongolia and fronted the German onslaught during Operation Barbarossa, until they were eventually replaced on the Eastern Front by the iconic T-34.

Tamiya's new model will include double-layered structure of the hull sides. A turret frame antenna will be offered to permit a Command tank to be built. Photo-etched parts and a metal towing chain will be included. A convenient jig to bend the parts is also supplied.

The large-pitch plate tracks are made up from individual links plus one-piece straight sections. The headlight lens and vision guard on the driver's hatch are made from clear parts.

A commander plus a crew figure holding a pre-mission briefing with a map will round out the package.

Five markings options depicting BT-7 tanks on the Eastern Front and in Mongolia are included. ■

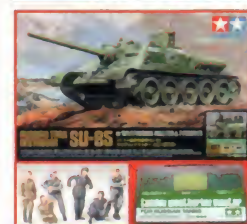
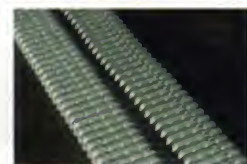


MORE NEWS FROM SHIZUOKA

There is great news for 1:48 scale modellers with the announcement of an all-new Tamiya 1:48 scale Japanese Navy Komatsu G40 Bulldozer. This will be an interesting crossover subject for both military and aircraft modellers. We will have more information about Tamiya's mid-scale Bulldozer in the next issue of Model Military International.

Tamiya has also announced the release of die-cast metal individual track links for their 1:16 scale Tiger I, King Tiger and Panther kits. These metal tracks will feature a sandblasted finish. The tracks will also be available in June, and will be priced around 18,800 yen for each set.

The venerable 1970s vintage Tamiya 1:35 SU-85 and SU-122 Tank Destroyers will be making a brief return as Limited Releases in June, this time each with a Tamiya Weathering Master Set featuring Red Earth, Soot, and Sand pigments and seven figures.



EDITOR'S CHOICE PANZERWRECKS X GERMAN ARMOUR 1944-45

"Panzerwrecks X - German Armour 1944-45" is the tenth volume in the excellent reference series from Lee Archer and William Auerbach dealing with German vehicles in various stages of abandonment, decay and destruction. As a nod towards the X-Files, this time around the Authors have assembled a pastiche of some of the most unusual vehicles that they could. Examples include the "Freaks and Antiques" feature, which delivers some real rarities, and "Panzers at Pilsen Airfield". The volume kicks off with "Panzerwrecks 2 Revisited" which re-examines some of the photographs and conclusions drawn in this earlier volume. In common with previous releases, this volume is presented in a landscape format on glossy paper with large and well-reproduced wartime images. This issue has 114 photographs in its 97 pages. Panzerwrecks X will be a fantastic source of inspiration for modellers and researchers alike, but especially for those who enjoy the occasional oddball Panzer!

Available online from Panzerwrecks www.panzerwrecks.com



ISSUE 49 ERRATA

Its mea maxima culpa time again. I must apologise to Alex Clark for incorrectly attributing several reviews in Small Scale to Darren Thompson (sorry to Darren too), in recent issues.

Also, the text from Marcus Nicholls' report from the 2010 Nuremberg Toy Fair in Issue 49 of MMI was truncated by eleven words. The missing words at the end were "...idea of what's on the modelling menu this year. Bon appetite!"

The culinary title of the report would have made more sense if I had made sure that the complete text was in the magazine!

Sorry about that Chief. Or should that be Chef...

TO THE LAST BULLET

We have just had word that the latest title from The Oliver Publishing Group, To The Last Bullet, is available now. This is the first book in their new Colour Series. As the name implies, this title will include a generous allowance of colour profiles. Johan Lexell at Bison Decals will be creating sheets of water-slide transfers based on the artwork. However, to compliment this book Nordland Models from the Czech Republic will also be releasing sets of dry transfers for those modellers that prefer that medium.

We will have more news on this new title in the next Issue of Model Military International.

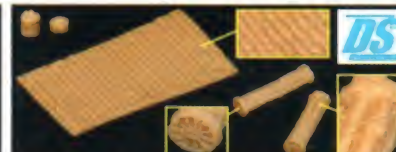
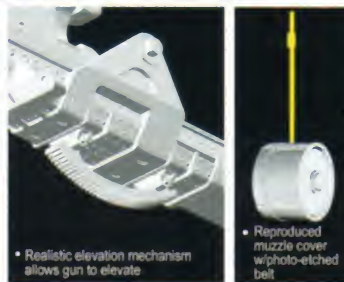
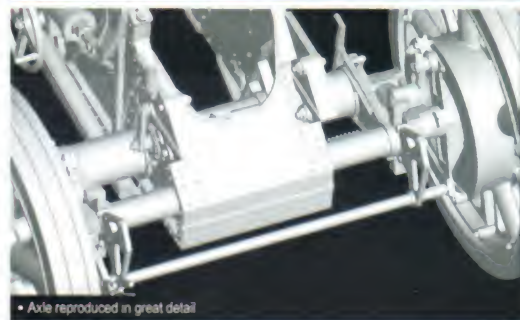
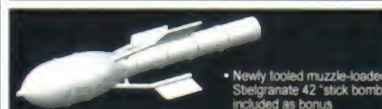
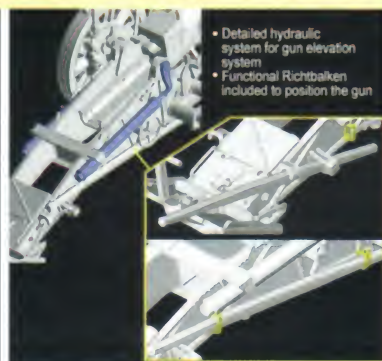
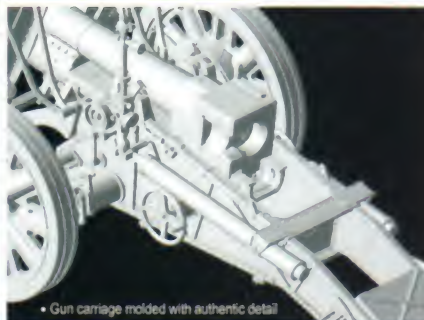
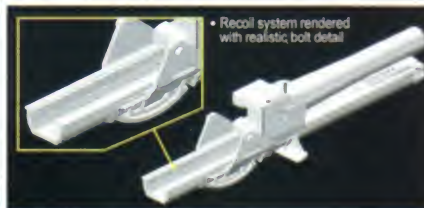
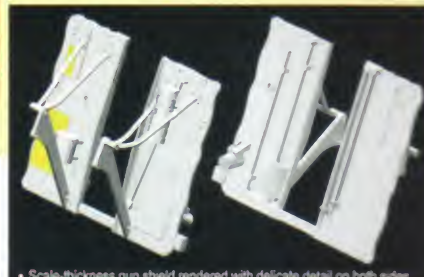
Thanks to The Oliver Publishing Group for the information.

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D6261

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DRAGON

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